

# Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



5th December 2014

## **MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Thursday, 11th December, 2014 at 4.30 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

1. **Routine Matters**
  - (a) Apologies
  - (b) Minutes
  - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Amateur Boxing Strategy (Start-up Club Funding)** (Pages 3 - 6)
3. **Evaluation of Summer Camps** (Pages 7 - 34)
4. **Lagan Valley Regional Park Funding** (Pages 35 - 38)
5. **ORNI Funding Arrangements** (Pages 39 - 44)
6. **Cremation Report / Membership of ICCM** (Pages 45 - 48)
7. **Donations to Societies and Hospitality for Events 2015** (Pages 49 - 52)

8. **Cliftonville FC - New Grandstand** (Pages 53 - 56)
9. **Drumglass Park Refurbishment Update** (Pages 57 - 62)
10. **Development of Land at Slievegallion Drive** (Pages 63 - 76)
11. **Proposed Disposal of Land at Orangefield Playing Fields** (Pages 77 - 84)
12. **Letting of site at Ballmacarrett for CCG Contract** (Pages 85 - 88)
13. **Review of use of the site at Lower Skegoniel** (Pages 89 - 96)
14. **Sewer Installation at Ormeau Park - Impact on BMX Track** (Pages 97 - 98)
15. **Proposed Bike Docks on BCC properties within LVRP** (Pages 99 - 104)
16. **Suicide Awareness report Shankill Memorial Garden** (Pages 105 - 106)
17. **Extension to Approved Tender** (Pages 107 - 108)
18. **Tennent's Vital Event** (Pages 109 - 112)
19. **Proposed Playground at Sliabh Dubh** (Pages 113 - 120)
  
20. **Patrick Carlin VC - Blue Plaque** (Pages 121 - 122)

**To: The Chairman and Members of the Parks and Leisure Committee**

**Extract of Minute of 9th September**

To consider further the minute under the heading “Amateur Boxing Strategy (Start-up Club Funding)” of the meeting of 9th of September, which at the request of Alderman Stoker, was referred back to the committee for further consideration

**Amateur Boxing Strategy (Start-up Club Funding)**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 At Parks and Leisure Committee in October 2012 Members approved the draft budget and workplan for the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.**
- 1.2 Members will be aware that within the Strategy, under the theme of Club support and development, an action of providing start-up funding to allow for the development of new clubs across the city was included.**
- 1.3 At its meeting in June 2014 Committee agreed to revisions to the budget area with £10,000 per annum allocated to support and develop new clubs. It was agreed that a further report would b brought to Committee to agree the mechanism and guidelines in providing this support.**

**2 Key Issues and Update**

- 2.1 The support and development of new clubs complementing existing clubs especially in under-represented areas such as East and South Belfast will be an essential element in the successful legacy of the Amateur Boxing Strategy and key to providing a citywide service to all who may wish to enter the sport.**
- 2.2 The programmes being delivered by our Boxing coaches and clubs citywide are increasing the demand for coaching provision and in-turn this will raise the demand for new clubs especially in areas of underrepresentation such as East and South Belfast. It is anticipated that a number of new club start-up requests for support will be received annually. The programme is actively promoting the sport through after schools activities across the city in liason with existing clubs in each area.**
- 2.3 Recently we have received enquiries for new club start-up support from potential clubs in Oldpark and on the Upper Ormeau Rd. A further enquiry has been received from a Castlereagh Boxing club interested in relocating to the Braniel area. More enquiries are anticipated to be received as amateur boxing develops as a mainstream sport citywide and as such an adopted start-up club fund and criteria for funding is required. A fund of £2500 per applicant has been allocated**

with £10,000 for new start-up grants in the current financial year.

2.4 The application form for funding has been developed by the Steering Group and has been attached as Appendix 1 for new club support funding. Funding will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The Steering Group following the support of the Sports Development Officer will assess the applications received within the specified guidelines for funding. The Director of Parks and Leisure will approve the proposed grants to new clubs under delegated authority as is currently the process for Support for Sport grants.

2.5 The table below indicates the proposed breakdown of new club funding with some examples of anticipated application requests

| Item detail            | Available Funding | Notes   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Coach Education        | £500              | Coaching course associated to delivery of Boxing in club. Eg Level 1 /2 /1 star courses |
| Equipment              | £1000             | Equipment deemed suitability by IABA for the delivery of Boxing in a club environment   |
| Facility Development   | £500              | Support for other club goods or equipment necessary for delivery                        |
| Other misc             | £500              | Other items or services required for clubs set up.                                      |
| <b>Total available</b> | <b>£2500(max)</b> |   |

2.6 The following criteria have been recommended by the Steering Group in order to ensure best practice adherence :

1. Applicants must submit a letter/email of support from County Board or higher within boxing along with this application.
2. Provide evidence of governance documents (constitution and assorted policies) plus sign-up to Clubmark via IABA and / or BCC prior to acceptance of application.
3. Identify their catchment area for club and prove that other clubs are not necessarily affected by the new clubs establishment.
4. Not be established more than 6 months.
5. Not be a commercial venture of any nature.
6. Be established as a Boxing club (not MMA or other activities) and be affiliated to IABA or a recognised Nation GB).

### 3 Programme Plan and Resource Implications

#### 3.1 Financial

The budget for the Amateur Boxing Strategy has been agreed.

#### Human Resources

**There are no Human Resources implications at this stage.**

**Assets and Other Implications**

**None at this stage**

**4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

**4.1 There are no equality and good relations impacts from this grant scheme.**

**5 Recommendations**

**5.1 That Members note the content of this report with regard to the current implementation of the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022.**

**5.2 The Committee is asked to agree the proposed mechanism and guidelines for allocation of grants up to £2500 towards the support of new clubs.**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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### Belfast City Council

|                           |   |
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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee   |
| <b>Subject</b>            | <b>Evaluation Report of Environmental Based Youth Development Camps</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure                   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Ricky Rice, City Parks Manager. South and West Belfast                  |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>Committee is reminded of a report presented to Committee on 12 June 2014, which received approval to proceed with 4 environmental based youth development camps across the City.</p> <p>The item was discussed at July 2014 Council meeting and an evaluation report was requested after the completion of the camps.</p> <p>The camps took place during July and August 2014. The camps were aimed at various age groups with a maximum of 15 per camp and run over 5 days. Each camp had the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment</li> <li>• To develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities</li> <li>• To build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City.</li> </ul> <p>Each camp had different aspects and projects based both on local opportunities and options to visit and experience other parts of the City and develop and learn new skills. A typical day of activity included a walk through a forest or up a glen or mountain and an opportunity to learn new skills such as compass reading, basic navigation, lunch on a mountainside, learning about the local fauna and the natural local history.</p> |

|  |  |
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|  | <p>The anticipated benefits of the youth development camp were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased participation in leisure activities and assist in reducing childhood obesity.</li> <li>• Reduced potential of anti social/community behaviour by engaging and educating the youths of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.</li> <li>• Increased awareness of our youth on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.</li> <li>• Increased capacity for participants as “Young leaders” by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness/avoidance skills.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

|    |   |
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| 2. | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p>  |
|    | <p>An independent evaluation report was commissioned and a report was submitted to the department in October 2014. The report, Appendix A, provides an overview of how the aims and objectives of this unique style of Environmental Youth Development Programme were met.</p> <p>Each of the camps had a range of objectives and outcomes because they were based in different parks of the city with different age ranges of children/youths, facilities, volunteers etc.</p> <p>As a pilot, the Council worked through a number of avenues to recruit participants to the programme, including BELB’s Area Youth Projects, some schools and established youth providers.</p> <p>The report concludes that all of the programme’s original aims were met, and in particular highlighted that new relationships were built between Parks staff and young people and relationships restored, where there had been conflict and anti social behaviour. Young park users are now on first name terms with park attendants, wardens, supervisors and managers. Some quotes from young people include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I really enjoyed the parkies being with us; nicest men ever; good banter off them; they have a hard job getting people out of the park at closing time.</i></li> <li>• <i>The young people in East picked up on the enthusiasm of the Outreach Manager; she communicated her love of the job to them.</i></li> <li>• <i>I met the park wardens; I thought they would have been boring but they’re not.</i></li> <li>• <i>It was good for the young people to see a woman in the role of Community Park Supervisor in South Belfast; she was a good role model’.</i></li> </ul> <p>The report also indicates there are a large number of positive outcomes from the camps and highlighted a number of key impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people developed new interests, new knowledge of things to do in parks and open spaces including cycling, woodwork, pond</li> </ul> |



dipping, walking, photography

- Young people reported the programme changed their attitude to park staff and changed their awareness of and increased sense of belonging in parks alongside other park users.
- Young people gained an interest in and understanding of the natural environment which is present on the doorstep – flowers, trees, birds, pond life.
- In terms of team-building and leadership skills, the young people learnt to work as a team and gained experience and training as youth mentors, as well as hazard awareness / avoidance skills.

The report (pg 22) makes 9 recommendations including:

1. **Train and up-skill Parks Staff.** The enthusiasm and professionalism of Parks Department staff, including attendants and wardens, as demonstrated by their success in engaging with young people and their passion for the natural environment, should be harnessed and developed through a citywide programme of training and up-skilling
2. **Sustain the learning.** The learning impacts of the youth development camps should be sustained. Outreach Managers have a range of ideas and plans for activities at school holidays and weekends to sustain and build on the impact of the learning achieved through the camps. These include (a) Saturday clubs enabling pathways and progression such as Wilderness Clubs, Green Teenz, Junior Ranger Corps and Conservation Corps.
3. **Widen access to the camp experience.** Ways of resourcing more young people to benefit from the camp experience should be identified such as School holiday camps throughout the year and increasing the number of summer camps in each area.
4. **Ensure Council gets recognition.** The concept of the city summer camp should be promoted, ensuring that Belfast City Council, and their partners, are recognised for this initiative. The Council should publicise the uniqueness of their camps,' run by your Council, in your local area in the green spaces on your doorstep, by your local Council workers'.
5. **Recruitment.** Recruitment of young people should be started in May/ June.

The implementation of the camp across the city demonstrated that the model for the camps is flexible. The same aims and benefits can be achieved in different local contexts and with young people from a range of backgrounds, interests, ages and confidence.

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| <b>3.</b> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Each of the 4 camps had different requirements based on local area needs. As indicated in the report the total cost of the camps was £20,589. This is lower than the estimated amount of £28,000 referred to in the June 2014 report and, as stated in the evaluation report, some of the equipment purchased has already been used for other groups and activities and will continue to be 'recycled' for any further activities or camps.</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <p><b>Equality Implications</b></p>  |
|           | <p>There are no equality implications concerning this report.</p>  |

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| <b>5.</b> | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p>  |
|           | <p>Committee is asked to note the evaluation report and authorise officers to develop the recommendations contained within the report and in particular to explore options to widen access for younger people to this unique style of Environmental Youth Camp whilst taking into account any financial implications.</p> <p>The recommendations at page 21 of the report and listed under headings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Train and up skill our Parks staff to reduce external costs</li> <li>2. Sustain the learning</li> <li>3. Sustain the positive engagement</li> <li>4. Widen access to the camp experience</li> <li>5. Link with mainstream education</li> <li>6. Ensure Belfast City Council gets adequate recognition</li> <li>7. Recruitment of young people</li> <li>8. Learning from the experience</li> <li>9. Leadership of the camps.</li> </ol> <p>If permission is granted to proceed with the recommendations then Committee will be provided with a further Committee report for any proposed Environmental Youth Camps which are planned for 2015.</p> |

|           |   |
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| <b>6.</b> | <p><b>Decision Tracking</b></p>   |
|           | <p>Rose Crozier, Assistant Director, Parks and Leisure Department to bring forward a report in April 2015</p> |

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>7.</b> | <p><b>Key to Abbreviations.</b></p> |
|           | <p>None</p>                         |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>8.</b> | <p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>   |
|           | <p>Appendix A - Evaluation report concerning 2014 Environmental Based Youth Camps.</p> |

**Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department**

**Environmental Based Youth Development Camps 2014**

**Evaluation Report**

Alison Wightman 13 October 2014

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
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## 1. Vision and context

### 1.1 The Vision for the camps

Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department decided to pilot a city wide programme of Environmental Based Youth Development Camps in 2014.

The initiative was a development of the trial Youth Development Projects held in 2012 and 2013 in West Belfast, which were based on an environmental theme for young people. The aim was to provide young people with opportunities to learn new skills and knowledge in an outdoor environment. The West Belfast camp's mission statement is 'to show young people how to explore, learn and appreciate the various and diverse geographical settings of Belfast while keeping safe at all times'. The rationale for the camp was that you don't have to go outside the city to experience the natural environment and to take part in adventure learning and environmental education and it aimed to:-

- Maximise the use of parks and open spaces as a public asset.
- Raise awareness about the connection of the parks with the urban environment
- Utilise natural capital and promote its connectivity by raising awareness of green corridors throughout the city eg the green corridor from Lagan Valley through Bog Meadows, the 2 cemeteries to the Black Mountain and how the park fits the rest of the natural environment.
- Promote non traditional activities and physical literacy, which are physically challenging and very different from organised sports.

The objectives for the young people at the camps were fun, explore, learn, team and safe.

The vision for the first camps was to address the increasing trend for children and young people to spend almost all of their time indoors, and the growing consensus that children would benefit from more freedom to explore nature and the outdoors. Since the 1970's, children have become increasingly shut in and their 'radius of activity' – the area around their home where they are allowed to roam unsupervised – has shrunk by almost 90%, according to the National Trust. Digital media and TV often get the blame but Tim Gill, author of 'No Fear: Growing up in a Risk Averse Society, argues that technology is a symptom rather than a cause of children's lack of access to nature. 'Because kids can't get outside in real life, a market has been created that keeps them engaged and connected', he said in a Sunday Times Article in 2013.

The amount of time which children spend strapped into cars, with a heavy reliance on TV and digital media led film maker, David Bond, to start a campaign called Project Wild Child. The National Trust then joined forces with Bond to create a Wild Network to entice children into the natural world. They produced a list of things to do before you are 11 ¾, which includes climbing a tree, catching a fish with a net, playing conkers, picking wild blackberries, star gazing.

This research, and the notion of 'battery reared', rather than 'free range children, caught the imagination of the Park Manager and members the Friends of the Falls Park and inspired the programming, choice of age range and objectives of the first camps.

## 1.2 Wider Policy Context

The initiative was driven by the Council's vision for parks and open spaces - Your City, Your Space 2005 – 2020. The vision followed two years of consultation and is the largest ongoing investment in parks and open spaces for many years, designed to improve the design, management, heritage value and levels of community involvement in Belfast's public spaces. It aims to:-

- a. help local people to take control of their open spaces,
- b. protect and improve open space that supports and promotes our natural, built and social heritage,
- c. provide a network of open space that we can enjoy and that will help to improve the quality of life and
- d. create and maintain an open space where we can all feel at ease.

This Council investment in its vision for parks and open spaces has led to the transformation of parks across the city. The Falls Park is one example of city leadership and community involvement working together to transform the park from an underused place where young people gathered, sometimes for anti social activities, and older people and women did not feel safe, to a positive environment for all parts of the local communities.

Additional Council policies and initiatives which the Camps contribute to are:-

- Local Biodiversity Plan for Belfast which aims to (a) raise awareness of biodiversity in Belfast, (b) get people involved with biodiversity and develop biodiversity partnerships and (c) conserve national and local priority species and habitats in Belfast.
- Reclaiming Belfast's Urban Parks and public open spaces Conference 2006. The conference was centred on the New York experience with key speakers from the city of New York's Parks and Recreation Department telling the story of how Central Park and other green spaces in the city had been turned into safe and welcoming places.
- The Belfast Strategic Partnership's citywide campaign to improve emotional well being which sets out the health benefits of physical activity and the natural environment. (*Take 5 Leaflet was distributed to every house in the city with City Matters in 2014*).

## **2. About the Programme**

### **2.1 Design of the citywide camps**

In April 2014, the Parks and Leisure Committee agreed in principle to grant approval to the citywide programme, subject to costs and clarity about selection procedure and age range. Final approval was granted in June based on a paper which set out the following:-

The camps were to last five days and to be aimed at various age groups with a maximum of 15 per camp.

Each camp had the following objectives:

- Develop skills and knowledge of the local environment
- Develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities
- Build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City.

Each camp had different aspects and projects, based on local opportunities as well as options to visit and experience other parts of the City and develop and learn new skills.

Typical days would include a cycle, team building physical activities, a walk through a forest or up a glen or mountain and an opportunity to learn new skills such as compass reading, basic navigation, and learning about local fauna and natural history.

### **2.2 Anticipated benefits**

The benefits of the young development camp were identified as:-

- Increased participation in leisure activities and assisting in reducing childhood obesity.
- Reduced potential of anti social /community behaviour by engaging and educating the young people of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.
- Increased awareness amongst young people on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.
- Increased capacity for participants as 'young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness / avoidance skills.

The planning and design of the camps was subject to the preparation of an in depth event management plan including health and safety, child protection and relevant risk assessment.

### **2.3 Age range and selection process.**

Parks Department Outreach Officers have developed relationships across the city with different age ranges of young people. On this basis, the proposed age range of 10- 17 years was agreed by Council as suitable, based on consultation with various existing youth

## Appendix A

groups. Each camp was to include young people from either end of that range, as a group including the full range would not be consistent with effective child protection practice.

Belfast City Council identified involvement of the existing Youth Development Forums, which are linked to the Belfast Education and Library Board, as the most suitable process for recruitment, with appropriate checks in place. These Forums have the relevant experience and knowledge of the local needs of young people. Outreach managers worked with the Forums to ensure a broad representation of local young people in each environmental based youth camp and a balanced selection process.

The Outreach Managers sought nominations from the Youth Development Forums and their associated local youth groups to determine the final group of fifteen. By working with the Forums, Council was given assurance regarding the suitability of the young people to participate in this pilot programme, as well as ensuring appropriate support for the young people pre and post camp.

It was agreed that an evaluation report would be brought to Committee in the autumn.

### **2.4 Budget**

Council decided the maximum cost per camp and the outreach managers identified the cost from their existing budgets. It was anticipated that each camp would have different requirements based on local circumstances, requirements and resources.

### **2.5 Evaluation Process**

Independent evaluation support was secured in July 2014. The evaluation process consisted of:-

- Identification of a framework to measure benefits to young people.
- Interviews with each of the 3 Outreach Park Managers.
- Interviews with staff from Youth Development Forums and Youth Providers.
- Research on the context including Belfast City Council policies and relevant initiatives.
- Baseline interviews with young people from East, North and South Belfast.
- End of camp evaluation interviews with young people from East, North and South Belfast and telephone interviews with parents from West Belfast.
- Consultation meeting with the Assistant Director, Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Dept.

### 3. Planning and Organisation

#### 3.1 Aims

The youth development camps in each area were designed by Parks and Leisure Department Outreach Teams to ensure:-

- a. Achievement of the aims of the programme,
- b. Contributing to the Council's Vision for Parks and Open Spaces
- c. Responding local issues and using local assets

#### a. Programme aims.

- To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment
- To develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities
- To build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City

#### b. Aims of the Parks and Open Spaces vision

- help local people to take control of their open spaces,
- protect and improve open space that supports and promotes our natural, built and social heritage,
- provide a network of open space that we can enjoy and that will help to improve the quality of life and
- create and maintain an open space where we can all feel at ease.

#### c. Responding to local issues and assets.

Through the Council's vision and the efforts of its staff, parks across the city are being transformed from focal points for negative behaviour, with little ownership by local communities and citizens, where women and older people sometimes feel unsafe, to positive places for everyone. The development of the youth development camps arose from and contributed to this citywide change.

As well as contributing to this citywide vision, each camp had additional local objectives for the implementation of the vision in their area. These objectives were identified through interviews with the Outreach Managers.

#### North Belfast

In North Belfast the camp objectives were to:-

1. Use the newly refurbished Woodvale Park to demonstrate that the park is performing and can generate activities, bring in programmes and increase usage.
2. Test whether an initiative, started in another area of the city, is relevant to local needs, and address any concerns about value for money.



## Appendix A

3. Respond to Woodvale Park's reputation for anti social behaviour, by targeting the young people who are currently engaging in it and increase their respect for the park.
4. Explore with young people the concept of a Young Adult Association Area, which the Council is piloting by developing area where young people can be dry and unobserved in a place where noise would not disturb local residents.
5. Provide a range of activities which might lead to longer term outcomes for young people such as engagement in sports activities, involvement in the community garden etc.
6. Provide an opportunity for cross community interaction and relationship building.

### **South Belfast**

In South Belfast the camp objectives were to use the skills and passion of local environmental groups to educate and enthuse children about the natural environment on their doorstep and:-

- Enhance appreciation of the parks
- Get to know park rangers and staff.
- Increase community ownership.
- Increase the number of young people using the park.
- Provide young people with opportunities for a better and more educated experience of the outdoors,
- Increase knowledge of local history and geology.
- Build on constructive relationships with community partners.
- Develop new interests and aspirations and channel young peoples' abilities eg cyclig and joining clubs.
- Increase confidence, mental and physical wellbeing of young people.
- Increase community cohesion – people from different communities having fun together.
- Build appreciation of biodiversity in their local area and how it links to the natural environment.
- Promote the parks and the outreach work by a programme which is highly visible with participants and leaders wearing branded T shirts and using branded tents – which is good PR for the Council, the image of the park and perception of young people.
- Increase local ownership and awareness of the range of facilities in Lady Dixon Park
- Create a highly visible positive presence of young people in the Falls Park.

### **West Belfast**

In West Belfast the camp objectives were to use the skills and passion of local environmental groups to educate and enthuse children about the natural environment on their doorstep and:-

## Appendix A

- Enhance appreciation of the parks
- Get to know park rangers and staff.
- Increase community ownership.
- Increase the number of young people using the park.
- Provide young people with opportunities for a better and more educated experience of the outdoors,
- Increase knowledge of local history and geology.
- Build on constructive relationships with community partners.
- Develop new interests and aspirations and channel young peoples' abilities eg cyclig and joining clubs.
- Increase confidence, mental and physical wellbeing of young people.
- Increase community cohesion – people from different communities having fun together.
- Build appreciation of biodiversity in their local area and how it links to the natural environment.
- Promote the parks and the outreach work by a programme which is highly visible with participants and leaders wearing branded T shirts and using branded tents – which is good PR for the Council, the image of the park and perception of young people.
- Increase local ownership and awareness of the range of facilities in Lady Dixon Park
- Create a highly visible positive presence of young people in the Falls Park.

### **East Belfast**

In East Belfast the camp aimed to develop relationships with local youth practitioners into working partnerships with the aim of enabling young people to enhance their personal skills and their sense of ownership of local parks and open spaces.

The Belfast City Council Parks Team have been working with the East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum over the last year to develop their outreach work, with the aim of maximising community involvement and participation in the Council's parks and open spaces.

In March 2014 the Parks team participated in a series of workshops, organised by the East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum to develop a youth response plan for the area. The workshops were attended by community and youth leaders from across the area, voluntary agencies and statutory services including PSNI, Health Trust and BELB. The aim of this process was to maximise partnership working between community and youth workers and voluntary and statutory agencies across the area. A number of points were raised which highlighted opportunities for the Parks Team to develop its outreach work in partnership with groups in the area including:-

'Groups need to work collectively with statutory groups. Youth and community groups have limits to their resources and remit; more statutory intervention is needed.'

Appendix A

‘Just moving the young people about and not actually engaging them doesn’t work, and neither does not reaching the core group. There is an opportunity for more co-ordination, understanding the strengths and limitations of each agency and sharing resources between agencies.’

In this context the additional local objectives for the camp were to:-

- Work in partnership with East Belfast Youth providers to increase capacity for future projects.
- Establish the skills sets of local organisations.
- Build the capacity of peer leaders (aged 15 – 17)
- Provide a meaningful enjoyable experience for young people.

### **3.2 Recruitment of young people**

As outlined in the Council paper, Parks and Leisure Outreach managers worked with their local Youth Development Forums, which are linked to the Belfast Education and Library Board, to ensure a broad representation of local young people in each youth camp and a balanced selection process.

Nominations were sought from the Youth Development Forums and their associated local youth groups to determine the final group of fifteen. In this way, Council was given assurance regarding the suitability of the young people to participate in this pilot programme, as well as ensuring appropriate support for the young people pre and post camp.

In North Belfast recruitment was carried out by BELB’s Area Youth Project which carries out detached work in parks and other places where young people gather. The age range of the young people was 13 – 14 years old. The rationale for the age range was to target park users to prevent and address involvement in anti social behaviour.

In West Belfast recruitment was carried out through the network of established youth providers – Upper Springfield Development Trust, St Galls, Ulster Wildlife Club, Friends of the Falls Park, USDT, Corpus Christi School and Upper Andersonstown Community Forum. The age range was 10 – 12. The rationale for this age range was the Wild Network idea, outlined in 1.1 including the list of things children should do before they are 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, as well as the openness of pre adolescent young people to education and learning and their less challenging behaviour.

In East Belfast recruitment was carried out through the East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum which includes a range of statutory and community based groups across the area. The age range was 12 – 15 with a group of peer mentors aged 16-17. The rationale for the age range was to prevent and address involvement in anti social behaviour, to develop confidence and skills and to build the capacity of peer leaders.

In South Belfast recruitment was carried out through Malone Integrated College, South Belfast Area Project and through Friends of Lady Dixon Park. The age range was 10 – 12. The rationale for this age range was that pre adolescent young people are more open to education and learning and their behaviour is less problematic.

Appendix A

The choice of age group of the young people in each area was carefully considered in response to local needs and circumstances in the context of the programme aims.

### **3.3 Programme**

#### **South Belfast**

In South Belfast the Camp was overseen and led by the Outreach Manager and day to day facilitation and group management was provided by a local leadership, management and team development company, with input from volunteers from previous years. The local Community Park Supervisor and the park wardens attended and participated throughout the week.

Activities included:-

Mountain biking skills, geo caching, bird box building, bike to meadows, shelter and day camp construction, willow dome construction, pond dipping, high wire and caving and canoeing at Belfast Activity Centre, tent erection and preparation of camp for overnight campout, campfire songs and marshmallows feast, cycling instruction and exploration of the Giants Ring.

The South Belfast camp was based in Lady Dixon Park and camp activities took place during the day. The overnight camp out took place in the Walled Garden of the Park. Other venues included the Lagan Tow Path, Barnett's Park, Mary Peters Track, Lagan Meadows, Divis Mountain and Belfast Activity Centre.

#### **East Belfast**

The camp in East Belfast was led by the Outreach Manager and day to day facilitation and management was provided by East Belfast Alternatives. There was a high level of active engagement from 3 local park wardens. There was also input from Belfast Activity Centre, Belfast Exposed on photography, Nozzle and Brush on graffiti art, Eclipse Pics on videography, Swann Training on woodwork skills and Connswater Greenway. Three volunteers from Orangegrove Athletics Club assisted at the orienteering activity.

In the initial stages an event management company was engaged to consult with Parks staff and the Youth Practitioners Forum to negotiate and develop a programme appropriate for the agreed target group. After two meetings, they produced a draft programme costed at significantly more than the available budget. The Outreach Manager then convened a further meeting with the Youth Practitioners Forum and local groups with the skills and facilities to contribute to the camp, including the boxing club, football club, Orangegrove Athletics Club and Connswater Greenway Project. This resulted in a revised programme which ran over 4 days.

Activities included: meeting the park warden and hearing about their work, woodwork, introduction to the community garden, outdoor play and sports, photography, orienteering, videography, graffiti, healthy eating, cycling and segway tours. Venues included Orangefield

## Appendix A

Park, Orangefield School, Victoria Park, Connswater Greenway, Titanic Quarter, Knocknagoney Community Garden, Comber Greenway and the Skainos Centre.

There was no overnight camp out, most activities took place in the evenings and there was a late night orienteering activity in Victoria Park.

### **North Belfast**

The North Belfast camp was organised by the Outreach Manager and activities were provided by a range of groups including Belfast Activity Centre, North Belfast Area Project, Survival NI and Conservation Volunteers. Leadership on the ground was not clear or visible and, in the course of the week, the management of the group of young people was undertaken by two sessional workers. The Attendant in the Bowling Pavilion took an active interest in the camp and the young people.

Activities included: team games, multi sports and street dance, survival skills, Belfast Activity Centre, outdoor laser and a bouncy castle available for all park users on the final afternoon.

The camp was based in Woodvale Park, activities took place during the day and there was no overnight camp out.

### **West Belfast**

In West Belfast the Camp was overseen and led by the Outreach Manager and day to day facilitation and group management was provided by an Adventure Camp Company, specialising in adventurous activities for teens. The local Community Park Supervisor and the park wardens attended and participated throughout the week.

Activities included:-

Mountain biking skills, geo caching, bird box building, bike to meadows, shelter and day camp construction, willow dome construction, pond dipping, high wire and caving and canoeing at Belfast Activity Centre, tent erection and preparation of camp for overnight campout, campfire songs and marshmallows feast, cycling instruction and exploration of the Giants Ring.

The West Belfast camp was based in the Falls Park and camp activities took place during the day. The camp out took place on Divis Mountain. Other venues included the Bog Meadows, Belfast Activity Centre and Colin Glen.

## 4. Evidence of benefits and impact

### 4.1 Achievement of programme aims

The first part of this section sets out the evidence of how the programme aims were achieved.

- To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment
- To develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities
- To build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City.

#### A. To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment

The success of the camps in achieving this aim is evident from participants' increased enjoyment of their local parks and open spaces and increased knowledge of the natural environment.

In West Belfast the enthusiasm of the camp leaders for the natural environment communicated itself to the young people. The Outreach Manager is a visible presence in open spaces in the area. One parent observed *'the kids look up to him – he's our own Bear Grylls'*.

The local young people learnt about the green corridor from the Falls Park, the graveyard and up to the Black Mountain. One parent said *'It was the young people's first hands-on experience of the environment – they came home and ate everything on their plate, slept well and lost interest in electronic gadgets for the week'*. Another parent noted *'there are thousands of children sitting in schools in West Belfast in the shadow of the Black Mountain but very few of them ever set foot on it, never mind camp out on it. This was a life-long experience for them'*.

In South Belfast, the young people explored the corridor between Minnowburn, Lagan Meadows, the Wetlands and Lady Dixon Park. One parent said *'This scheme is really different and with the staff's knowledge and enthusiasm my children have both learned a life lesson on getting up and getting out there'*.

In East Belfast the camp visited 4 local parks as well as the Connswater Greenway. Feedback from the young people included *'I've learnt about the wildlife of the park and to treat it with respect'* and *'I learnt how much effort the gardeners put in. I'd think a bit more before I'd vandalise them.'* T

The camp provided opportunities for the young people to enjoy public spaces alongside other citizens and users, for example they were able to meet and get to know bowlers and to interact with other people in the park, rather than being shepherded about in a group.

Local youth providers who have experienced a range of programmes for young people identified the outdoors nature of the camp as unique. *'It was simple, physical and in nature.'*

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*So many of the things our young people do are passive, commercialised and materialistic – this was participative and the young people felt free’.*

At the end of each camp, young people demonstrated increased awareness of park facilities. When interviewed they reflected, *‘The park was a bit boring before; I’ll pay more attention now and enjoy it better’ and ‘ There’s a lot of stuff to do in the park and I respect it more.’* Another said *‘I learnt how much wildlife there actually is in our park’.*

Parents and young people from South and West Belfast said they would go to the park more often as a family, spend more time there and do a wider range of things. One parent said *‘The camp set an example for us. Although we are city folk, we’re all only 2 minutes from our local park’.*

### **Knowledge of the natural environment**

Young people demonstrated more awareness of the natural environment and showed more curiosity and appreciation of flora and fauna at the end of the camp. They gained their new knowledge and appreciation in different ways, sometimes through input from local enthusiasts and parks staff and sometimes through the medium of photography.

In South Belfast young people learnt about pond dipping, bird box making, making shelters out of willows and bird ringing. Pond dipping was most frequently mentioned by the young people as an interesting and enjoyable activity, which they would do again. One parent from South Belfast said *‘My son and daughter children attended and I have to say it was one of the best learning experiences that my children have been involved in. My son loved the lessons on local wildlife and the local environment and last weekend we had to go as a family to Lady Dixons so he could show all of us where he had seen the kingfisher along the Lagan and where the bats lived.*

In East Belfast the young people learnt about the environment and about growing. Their comments included *‘I would like to try growing things now – like potatoes and flowers’ and ‘I’d be interested in helping out with a community garden’. ‘I learnt how beautiful the plants and flowers in the park are, through photography’.*

In North Belfast the knowledge of the natural environment was through learning survival skills such as lighting a fire and building a shelter on an expedition to the Cavehill.

Parents in West Belfast noted the education their children had gained and regarded it as a life lesson. One parent noted that his son is now much more aware of the natural environment and the importance of not leaving rubbish and use of bags for dog mess. Three parents noticed how their children had retained their knowledge and learning, pointing out the flora and fauna on family holidays or days out such as the difference between dragonflies and damson flies, or the presence of flint on a family walk. Another parent referred to the far greater impact the camp had on their child, compared to other programmes and schemes for children and young people.

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Feedback from parents and young people evidenced a new love of the outdoors. One parent said *'my son has really bought into the outdoors'* and another *'my son had a good time but he also got an education and a new interest in the environment'* and one young person said *'I'm more outdoorsy than I thought!'*. Another family said that as a result of their son's newfound love of the outdoors, they would be holidaying at home next year instead of going abroad, so that they could camp and explore the local environment. The same child had also asked his parent for a dog so that he could take it for walks and he had ensured that his new schoolbag was a type that he could use on walks and camping trips with his family.

**B Development of personal skills and completion of different adventurous activities**

**Adventure**

Fun, adventure and excitement were words most often used to describe the camps. Other words and comments included:- *'it was the best week of my life'; 'the week was amazing; 'I would definitely come back'; 'best days of my summer; brilliant'*. Other words used to describe the camps were - surprising, competitive, very much about nature, very energetic, enjoyable.

One parent noted *'every day my children came home with stories of their adventures'*.

The focus on adventure worked equally well across the different age groups across the city. For example, in East Belfast, where the young people were older and some had been targeted because of their behaviour in the parks, local youth workers said *'the young people loved it; there was no negativity, we didn't have to coax them to take part, everybody participated and they all attended every day – in fact the number of participants increased.'*

Across the city, the young people completed a wide range activities including:-

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Cycling<br/>Archery<br/>Hill walking,<br/>Hiking.<br/>Overnight camping<br/>Caving<br/>Graffiti</p> | <p>Canoeing<br/>Building a shelter.<br/>Climbing trees.<br/>Wall climbing<br/>Orienteering.<br/>Photography<br/>Brake dancing</p> | <p>Woodwork<br/>Cookery<br/>Making a campfire<br/>Segways<br/>High rope activities.<br/>Bird box making<br/>Video</p> |
|--|---|---|

**Personal skills and long term change**

During the interviews, young people identified a range of personal skills they had developed during the camp, including:

- Resilience.
- Risk taking
- Leadership



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- Physical challenge.
- Overcoming the challenges of learning new things or things they found difficult.

One young man in North Belfast noted that he had fallen down a lot in the physical activities which was unusual for him. He reflected that this might have been because he felt safe to take risks. Another noticed that he had paid more attention and participated more than he usually did in organised activities because it was a fun learning experience— both the people and the activities. One young man enjoyed the opportunity to practice and develop his leadership skills, to think, plan, take the initiative, come up with ideas and lead the team.

Others reflected that the camp has been a challenge for them. They had pushed themselves to participate in activities. They also found the activities physically challenging, for example, completing a cycle or a hill walk, undertaking and completing the shelter and fire making, and getting especially cold and/or wet. Others surprised themselves *'I can go a lot further when I'm walking than I thought.'* Another said *'I changed from being nervous about everything to being confident and I'm proud about that.'*

Parents in West Belfast noted the personal skills including survival skills and self reliance which their children had developed, such as carrying their own pack, use of a stick on long walks, tidying up, putting up tents and washing up. One parent reflected on the difference between skills acquired through sports and the skills acquired through the camp which were more to do with adventure and relying on your own resources.

Leaders in West Belfast noticed that two young people – one girl and one boy displayed great athletic prowess in cycling. They highlighted this exceptional ability to their parents at the end of the week, encouraging them to support their children in pursuing their interest through a cycling club.

Parents of the younger participants in South and West Belfast commented on learning about leadership and organisation and the positive role model set by the camp leaders. *'We were a bit worried about leaving our son, especially overnight, but when we arrived at the camp and saw the level of organisation, the way equipment was laid out, the structure and the level of organisation - it set the scene for the week, and removed any fears we had.'* Another said *'the camp leaders were absolutely fantastic with the kids and, with their team, demonstrated great leadership skills. The professional organisation, direction and leadership gave me confidence.'*

Parents and young people evidenced long term change in attitudes, interests and behaviour. They referred to life lessons and experiences which will stay with them for the rest of their life. One example of long term change is this South Belfast parent's comment, *'It is hard to get my son to take part in activities outside the house so this camp has changed his attitude. Now he wants to join the Scouts so that he can do more adventure camps so he can learn more.'*

The skills which young people identified they had developed through the camps included cycling (which was very popular), orienteering, photography, woodworking, brake dancing, canoeing, graffiti and fishing. The interests which they expressed an interest in maintaining are listed in the section on 'increased participation in leisure activities'.

### **C New relationships built, both within a team environment and across the City.**

All of the young people enjoyed meeting each other and making new friends. None of the young people on the four camps knew each other beforehand, with the exception of North Belfast. The young people enjoyed helping each other with activities and participating with the other gender. For example one of the girls commented, *'I would talk to the wee lads in the park now – I didn't before.'* Leaders in South Belfast noticed how the quietest, most withdrawn child at the beginning of the week was a confident member of the group, throwing himself into all the activities by the end of the week.

There were three other outcomes for relationships:-

#### **New relationships between young people and parks staff**

The young people identified the chance to get to know parks staff, wardens and managers as a valuable outcome of the camp for them. This was particularly noticeable amongst the older age group in East and North Belfast, who use the parks in the evening and are involved in, or witness negative behaviours, such as arranged fights, refusing to leave at closing time and rumour spreading and agitation against the police. This age group were also interested in the day to day work of parks staff; they provided positive, credible, role models for future employment. Both younger and older young people developed positive relationships with park managers, gardeners, wardens and attendants in the course of the camps and went home at the end of the week on first name terms with them.

*I really enjoyed the parkies being with us; nicest men every; good banter off them; they have a hard job getting people out of the park at closing time.*

*The young people in East picked up on the enthusiasm of the Outreach Manager; she communicated her love of the job to them.*

*I met the park wardens; I thought they would have been boring but they're not.*

*It was good for the young people to see a woman in the role of Community Park Supervisor in South Belfast; she was a good role model'.*

#### **Relationships between young people and park users**

The fact that the camps were based on adventure and open spaces, enabled young people to interact with other park users as fellow citizens; this had some unanticipated benefits. In East Belfast one of the bowlers in the park took an interest in the young people and showed them how to bowl. The next time the young people were in the park after the camp, they called in to have a chat with him.

#### **New and stronger relationships between parks staff and local voluntary and community groups.**

In East Belfast, the Outreach Manager achieved her aim of developing partnerships with youth providers. Throughout the planning and delivery of the camp, she maximised

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opportunities for developing relationships and partnership working with local groups from sports clubs to youth providers. For example, she secured the support of a local youth provider with strong relationships with young people in the area; three of their staff worked alongside Park's staff, leading the camp, managing behaviour and supporting engagement and learning. The result is a range of new Parks' Outreach initiatives in the area for the future.

In North Belfast the camp provided an opportunity to initiate relationships with local youth providers. Prior to the project, the primary reason for Parks department staff to make contact with a local groups was to discuss and seek help with a problem in a Council facility. The primary reason for local groups to make contact with Parks department staff was to seek grant aid. This changed when this project started. Park Department staff now have a better appreciation of the knowledge that the local youth work team have about how the park is used by young people and what goes on in it.

In West Belfast, relationships with community networks, youth providers, schools and sporting organisations are well established through the Outreach Managers interaction with the Friends of the Falls Park group. The existing relationship with the Upper Springfield Development Trust was strengthened this year through their role in recruiting young people for the camp; previously the relationship with Parks Dept had been focused on addressing anti social behaviour. The relationship with schools in West Belfast has increased use of the Parks throughout the year by local schools, most recently for a B Tech learning programme.

Also in West Belfast, work with environmental groups has been developed to sustain the interest of the young people, with tangible outcomes. This summer Colin Glen Trust and the National Trust ran a week of events in Divis Mountain as a follow on to the camps, during which the park rangers put their new knowledge of pond dipping into practice by showing young people how to do it.

In South Belfast new relationships were established between parks staff and South Belfast Area Project and Malone Integrated College.

#### **4.2 Achievement of programme benefits**

The proposed benefits of the young development camp were identified by Council as:-

- i. Increased participation in leisure activities and assisting in reducing childhood obesity.
- ii. Reduced potential of anti social /community behaviour by engaging and educating the young people of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.
- iii. Increased awareness amongst young people on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.
- iv. Increased capacity for participants as 'young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness / avoidance skills.

##### **i. Increased participation in leisure activities.**

The interests and skills which the young people said they would like to maintain after the camp are set out in the following table.

| <b>New Interests</b>   |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in a community garden</li> <li>• Pond dipping x 2</li> <li>• Go for longer walks.</li> <li>• Spend more time outside.</li> <li>• Learning about birds and trees.</li> <li>• Mountain climbing.</li> <li>• Want to try caving.</li> <li>• BAC – new place to go.</li> <li>• Bird box building.</li> <li>• Walking</li> </ul> |

**ii. Reduced potential of anti social /community behaviour by engaging and educating the young people of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.**

In East Belfast some of the young people had been recruited for the camp because of a number of problems, including their refusal to leave the park at closing time and confrontations with the wardens. Despite these recent negative experiences, the park wardens threw themselves into the programme with professionalism, treating all of the young people the same, regardless of prior conflict. They took part in the icebreaker exercises from the very start. East Belfast Alternatives, who managed the camp alongside the Parks Manager, identified one of the main outcomes of the week as similar to a restorative justice process, in that it restored and strengthened relationships between wardens and young people. It is likely that this will contribute to preventing anti social behaviour in the future.

At the beginning of the camps, young people in North and East Belfast had described how parks can become a focus for negative experiences and activity such as arranged fights, spreading rumours about police activity and then attacking the police, refusing to leave at night when the wardens are locking up etc. The camps enabled them to enjoy both the freedom of the open spaces and to interact with other people who use them, such as the bowlers and the wardens who work in them. They were able to relax together in a number of parks and open spaces. The park also became a place of learning and trying out new skills. Youth leaders in East Belfast, who had prior knowledge the young people, were impressed by the respect they displayed throughout the week to all the leaders and to the park facilities. They noted the young people's new awareness of how space could be used in a positive way, for example how they deliberated for a long time over where to situate their mural in the park so that it wouldn't be damaged.

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The camps provided the opportunity for Parks Dept staff to be seen as passionate and proud of their spaces and for young people to see the possibilities for enjoyment and learning. Continued engagement has been facilitated and can follow on with ease.

Branding worked well for the areas which used it. Branded coats, hoodies or tents created a visible presence in the park. This provided a sense of identity and also legitimacy for the young people in the parks, and highlighted young people's positive engagement in the park for other park users.

### **iii. Increased awareness amongst young people on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.**

Increased awareness of biodiversity was a central feature of the camps in South and West Belfast and love of the outdoors, gardening, flowers and plants in the parks was identified by East Belfast participants as a valued outcome.

Awareness of biodiversity was new for participants and has opened the door to a new interest, which was noted by a significant number as lifelong.

### **iv. Increased capacity for participants as 'young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness / avoidance skills.**

The camps provided a range of opportunities for the development of leadership skills. In West and South Belfast, previous participants returned to the camps as leaders and camp and several camp participants expressed a wish to volunteer in the future. In East Belfast, young people who had expressed a wish to become volunteers with East Belfast Alternatives, were given the opportunity to attend the camp as mentors for the younger age group and to participate in an accredited course on peer mentoring, run by Alternatives. Group activities throughout the programme provided opportunities for participants to develop decision making, team working and hazard awareness skills.

## 5. Conclusions and recommendations

### 5.1 Impact

The evidence from the evaluation process demonstrates that the citywide programme of Environment based Youth Development Camps achieved their aims and realised the anticipated benefits. This evaluation report evidences direct and sustainable benefits for young people, families, parks staff and statutory and voluntary youth providers.

Key impacts were:-

- Young people enjoyed and positive engaged with the outdoors *Aim 1 Awareness and knowledge of the local environment*
- Young people had new experiences of physical challenge and adventure and gained a range of new interests for the future – cycling, woodwork, pond dipping, walking, photography. *Aim 2 Personal skills and interests*
- New relationships were built between Parks staff and young people and relationships restored, where there had been conflict and anti social behaviour. Young park users are now on first name terms with park attendants, wardens, supervisors and managers. New and stronger relationships were created between Parks staff and local statutory and voluntary youth providers *Aim 3 Build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City*
- Young people developed new interests, new knowledge of things to do in parks and open spaces. *Benefit 1 Increased participation in leisure activities*
- Young people changed their attitude to park staff and changed their awareness of and increased sense of belonging in parks alongside other park users. *Benefit 2 Reduced potential of anti social /community behaviour by engaging and educating the young people of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.*
- Young people gained an interest in the natural environment which is present on the doorstep – flowers, trees, birds, pond life. *Benefit 3 Increased awareness amongst young people on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.*
- Young people learnt to work as a team and gained experience and training as youth mentors. *Benefit 4 Increased capacity for participants as 'young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness / avoidance skills.*

### 5.2 Uniqueness

There was a very clear understanding of the unique nature of the camp by all participants, leaders and contributors.

The key features of the camps were clearly identified by young people and youth leaders as being about:-

- Real learning and engagement,
- New experiences and adventure
- Appreciating your park.
- Simple, physical and outdoorsy experiences.

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- Being in public spaces with other members of the public
- Enjoying and learning about local spaces, on your doorstep.
- Participative – not passive.

By contrast, other summer programmes were described as ‘impersonal’, ‘bus trips to the usual places where young people go all the time’, ‘shepherded about in small groups with no interaction with anybody else, including other members of the public’ and ‘more like child minding than engagement’.

### 5.3 Criteria for success

The aims and benefits were achieved through a combination of vision, passion, professionalism, planning and management. A number of key components ensured results:-

- Passion for educating people about their local natural environment.
- Operational experience in the Council – to co-ordinate and maximise use of resources and input, manage risks and ensure safety.
- Local knowledge and relationships.
- Visible leadership, including branding.
- Day to day communication with, and management of, the young people.
- Use of contractors with local knowledge.
- Micro management of the young people, activities and equipment to minimise risks.

### 5.4 Flexible Model

The implementation of the camp across the city has demonstrated that the model for the camps is flexible. The same aims and benefits can be achieved in different local contexts and with young people from a range of backgrounds, interests, ages and confidence. The model was effective in addressing issues with young people’s behaviour in parks and changed young people’s attitudes to parks and parks staff in every case.

### 5.5 Value for money

Each of the four camps cost significantly less than the maximum cost approved by Council. Outreach managers identified the costs from their existing budgets.

#### Total costs, including support staff.

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| <b>East Belfast</b>  | £5,279 |
| <b>North Belfast</b> | £3,342 |
| <b>South Belfast</b> | £6,123 |
| <b>West Belfast</b>  | £5,845 |

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In the main, the camps provided a springboard for a range of new activities throughout the year and therefore some of the costs related to activities initiated through the camp and taking place later in the year. Other costs were for equipment which is being re-used for other groups and activities and will reduce the costs in subsequent years. There was not the same level of programme leadership or outcome in North Belfast.

Each camp had different requirements based on local circumstances, requirements and resources. All of them made maximum use of local assets and supported local businesses and voluntary and community groups, for example use of community venues and using skills of local youth providers, environmentalists and local sporting organisations.

#### Breakdown of total costs for the four camps.

| Activities | Equipment | Programme leadership | Travel and subsistence | Support Staff |
|------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| £8,171     | £2,724    | £5,600               | £1,793                 | £2,301        |

Outreach managers used a range of local resources to ensure appropriately skilled, safe and qualified leadership for the camps.

There was considerable voluntary input to the camp in East Belfast from local groups and individuals – ranging from East Belfast Alternatives to the local athletics association and a member of the bowling club. This added to the local ownership of the camp and to the development of long term relationships.

The long term benefits of the camps for young people, families, Park Staff and youth providers was evidenced in the previous sections. The value for money of the camps is evident from the long term results.

#### 5.6 Recommendations

1. **Train and up-skill Parks Staff.** The enthusiasm and professionalism of Parks Department staff, including attendants and wardens, as demonstrated by their success in engaging with young people and their passion for the natural environment, should be harnessed and developed through a citywide programme of training and up-skilling. The menu of training should range from practical skills like archery, pond dipping, cycling and canoeing to accredited programmes in 'How to Engage with Young People', Conflict Management and Mediation.
2. **Sustain the learning.** The learning impacts of the youth development camps should be sustained. Outreach Managers have a range of ideas and plans for activities at school holidays and weekends to sustain and build on the impact of the learning achieved through the camps. These include (a) Saturday clubs enabling pathways and progression such as Wilderness Clubs, Green Teenz, Junior Ranger Corps and



Conservation Corps, (b) activities in local parks including cross cycling, woodworking, photography training, gardening skills and linking in with current developments such as Connswater Greenway. (c) facilities in local parks such as pond dipping platforms and nature study points linking with the Council's Biodiversity work.

3. **Sustain the engagement.** The engagement impacts of the camps should be sustained through ongoing activities for young people organised with youth providers in each area in order to reduce the potential of anti social /community behaviour by engaging and educating the young people on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.
4. **Widen access to the camp experience.** Ways of resourcing more young people to benefit from the camp experience should be identified such as School holiday camps throughout the year and increasing the number of summer camps in each area.
5. **Link with mainstream education.** Educational outcomes could be developed by building on existing work with schools in South and West Belfast to provide learning opportunities in biodiversity and the environment through the curriculum, and with environmental organisations to provide qualifications such as Entry Level Habitat Restoration work.
6. **Ensure Council gets recognition.** The concept of the city summer camp should be promoted, ensuring that Belfast City Council, and their partners, are recognised for this initiative. The Council should publicise the uniqueness of their camps,' run by your Council, in your local area in the green spaces on your doorstep, by your local Council workers'. Branding of clothing and equipment and Council leadership should be visible throughout the camp.
7. **Recruitment.** Recruitment of young people should be started in May/ June and Outreach Managers should share their experience and ideas about effective recruitment methods. The camp programme, including the strengths of each activity should be explained and discussed with young people / parents in advance.
8. **Learn from experience.** There was huge learning for outreach managers from the experience of running the camps. The criteria for success should be used to plan future camps, and opportunities provided for Outreach managers to share experience and learning to ensure that results are consistent across the city.
9. **Leadership.** Leadership of the camps should be clear and consistent throughout their duration. The roles of all leaders, facilitators and support staff should be clearly set out and agreed during the planning process. The role and supervision of sessional staff should be revisited.

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**Camp programmes to be appended.**



### Belfast City Council

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Lagan Valley Regional Park Funding</b>             |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014                        |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager                       |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 6 December 2012 approval was given to provide an annual grant of £26,360 to £27,370 to Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) for the period April 2013 until March 2016. Members will be aware that LVRP is a partnership between Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Lisburn City Council, Department of Culture Arts &amp; Leisure and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Belfast City Council has been one of the main partner funding organisations for LVRP since its inception in 1967.</p> <p>The Council has benefited significantly from the work of LVRP through organised events, use of LVRP Rangers, additional signage, community engagement; education and from other partnerships developed through the LVRP. Over the last few years, the achievements of LVRP include;</p> <p>Annual events program last year ran 33 events engaging with over 800 people.</p> <p>2014 - Coca Cola clean coast award winner for our 'My River' Initiative<br/>Coordinating volunteers, groups and promoting awareness of benefits of a clean river to the local community.</p> <p>2013 - The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer and community groups<br/>Highest standard possible for volunteer groups for the overall program, the work, welfare and motivation of our volunteers.</p> <p>2012 - 2015 - Investing in volunteer's accreditation by the UK volunteering forum.</p> <p>2013 – CBC Mayors Award for volunteering supporting volunteering for a large group.</p> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>2013 – Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards winner for Nature Conservation for the ‘Lagan Initiative’.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the funding position of LVRP due to Local Government Reform and due to other financial constraints.</p> |
|--|--|

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|           | <p>The Review of Public Administration has resulted in the Regional Park funding moving from a split between three councils (Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and Lisburn City Council) to a split between two Councils: Belfast City Council and the new Lisburn and Castlereagh Council. A request for BCC to increase its level of funding from £27,370 to £41,055 has been received. This contribution would represent an increase from 18% of the overall costs and to 27% for 2015/16.</p> <p>LVRP have also highlighted that other funding streams are potentially under threat due to central government cuts; i.e. from the NIEA funding which is currently 34% of the overall contribution.</p> <p>They have highlighted that if this funding is cut by 50% or cut completely the funding requirement requested from the Council would increase to 36% and potentially up to 44%.</p> <p>This core funding to LVRP will help deliver a number of key projects that will complement and support Belfast City Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ complete a strategic review of the Regional Park and update the Management Plan for the next five years including sustaining the legacy of the Liganscape</li> <li>▪ organising and delivering an events programme offering a broad range of interests and activities that will enhance our own Council events’ programme</li> <li>▪ continue to provide a Ranger Service along the towpath which complements and supports our parks that lie within the boundary of LVRP and develop a towpath initiative focusing on issues raised by park users</li> <li>▪ continue to engage the local community in projects in the Park encouraging them to manage their environment as well as the associated physical and mental health benefits.</li> </ul> <p>Funding the LVRP 2015/16 will support the work being done by the Council and will enhance many other areas of work including biodiversity, education, community engagement, countryside recreation and promotional activities. If the Committee agrees to this request, it will be necessary to review and update the Funding Agreement between the Council and LVRP. However the future arrangements for the partnership will have to be reviewed in line with the funding available and the key activities aligned to the resources available. The long term funding of the partnership may not be sustainable and BCC should assess the merits of continuing in this partnership against the operational requirements of the areas transferring that fall within this arrangement.</p> |

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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | <p><u>Financial</u><br/>Currently there is an amount of £27,370 within the departmental estimates for 2015/16 which is yet to be approved. However due to the impact of Local Government reform an increased amount of £41,055 has been requested which has not been provided for in the estimates. The report highlights that this level of funding could be required to be increased to up to £66,555 depending on other funding available. This level of funding is not currently available nor would it be sustainable for the department.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u><br/>None.</p> |

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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b> |
|           | None  |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | Committee are asked to note the contents of the report and to agree the level of funding that should be provided for 2015/16 for the LVRP subject to the relevant agreements being amended where necessary. |

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|           | The Open Spaces and Active Living Manager will be responsible for carrying out the decision of the Committee. An assessment of the longer term funding arrangements will be carried out and a report brought to Committee at a later date. |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>                                     |
|           | BCC – Belfast City Council<br>LVRP – Lagan Valley Regional Park |

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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
|           | None                      |

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### Belfast City Council

|                           |   |
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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee   |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Outdoor recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)</b>   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Quinn, Community Park Manager<br>Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager |

|           |  |
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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>The purpose of this report is twofold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To seek authority from Committee in respect of a request from ORNI for a management fee in respect of their work and support in securing funding for the Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett's Demesne; and</li> <li>2. To seek authority from the Committee to part fund as part of the partnership arrangement with ORNI, the ongoing marketing and promotion around mountain biking within Belfast.</li> </ol> <p><b>Management Fee in respect of Mountain Bike Trail</b></p> <p>By way of background, Outdoor Recreation NI currently receives core funding from NIEA; DCAL (Inland Waterways); Sport NI; and NITB. The core funding covers approximately 78% of core running costs such as salaries &amp; office overheads. The shortfall of 22% is met through a 'management fee' charged for staff who are involved in individual projects undertaken by the organisation.</p> <p>The Committee is reminded that the Mountain Bike Trail was secured through a funding package with contributions from Rural Development Programme; Sport NI and short fall funding from Belfast City Council. ORNI played a central role in the securing of the external funding; and indeed Officers would acknowledge the key role played by ORNI in making the application and in working with the funding bodies and other statutory agencies to secure the necessary approvals to proceed.</p> |

ORNI also has a well established network of Mountain Bike users and this was invaluable in developing the trail.

Members are asked to note that BCC was prohibited from making application to Sport NI under the Community Capital Programme; this funding source would not therefore have been available to the council had ORNI not made the application.

ORNI has approached Council Officers seeking remuneration for their involvement with this project. It would appear that there had been some discussion about this at an early stage in the process and indeed in an early cost estimate for the project there was an allowance of £9,000 set aside as a management fee for ORNI.

However, this figure was not agreed and whilst there were several legal agreement signed up to as part of the funding process; there is no reference to this management fee. Nor was there reference to such a fee in any of the reports previously presented to Committee between 2010 and 2013 which related to the Trail Project.

It is the view of Officers that there was an understanding on the part of the ORNI that a fee would be payable to ORNI upon completion of the works.

Appendix A outlines the work undertaken by ORNI during the project. Without this work it is questionable as to whether the Trail would have secured the necessary funding and been successfully delivered.

It is therefore recommended that a one off payment of £9,000 be made to ORNI as a management fee in respect of their contribution to the delivery of what has been a highly successful project.

### **Funding to support a Mountain Bike Marketing Officer**

The funding is to support a Mountain Biking Marketing Officer for ORNI (Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland) to promote, support and liaise with consortium partners to ensure a collaborative approach providing mutual benefits for the mountain bike trail centres in Northern Ireland.

### **National trail centres in Northern Ireland:**

- Newry and Mourne District Council have agreed to fund £11,666 for Rostrevor Trail Centre.
- Down District Council have agreed to fund £11,666 for Castlewellan Trail Centre.
- Cookstown District Council has agreed to fund £11,666 for Davagh Trail Centre.

### **Regional trail centres in Northern Ireland:**

- Dungannon District Council has agreed to fund £5,000 for Blessingborne Trail Centre.
- Belfast City Council has been approached for £5,000.



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|           | <p>The success of the funding will secure this resource provided by ORNI for all the trail centres.</p> <p>The relationship with ORNI has proved to be very valuable in establishing and progressing the Mountain Bike Trails and Dirt Jumps at Barnett Demesne and Mary Peters Track and we wish to maintain this in 2015/16.</p>   |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
|           | <p>The Council wishes to promote the use of Mountain Bike Trails and Dirt Jumps at Barnett Demesne and Mary Peters Track to ensure the facility is well used, contributing health and well being by encouraging active lifestyles.</p> <p>The website management provided by ORNI has been valuable for providing updates for users e.g. trail closures, update of trail conditions and managing online event calendar in liaison with Community Park Manager.</p> <p>The marketing campaigns by ORNI create and manage advertising in Northern Ireland and republic of Ireland to ensure tourist are aware of the trails available at Barnett's Demesne.</p> <p>The assistance by ORNI has been valuable in the updating of signage on the trails and dirt jumps to ensure consistency across Northern Ireland.</p> |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The funding of the management fee can be sourced from an existing budget code covering 'Other Professional Services'</p> <p>£5,000 to be provided to ORNI from site budget within Barnett's Demesne in 2015/16</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>It is envisaged the support from ORNI will provide an additional staff resource to market and promote the trails locally and nationally.</p> <p><u>Asset</u></p> <p>The marketing resource will help to promote the Mountain Bike Trails and Dirt Jumps through ORNI's advertising and promotion therefore encouraging continued use of the facility that is unique to Belfast.</p>   |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and good relations implications</b>  |
|           | None   |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 5.1       | <p>It is recommended that the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree to the payment of the management fee; and</li> <li>2. Grant permission for financial support to the sum of £5,000 to ORNI to continue marketing support for Mountain Bike Trails and Dirt Jumps at Barnett Demesne and Mary Peters Track in line with the other Councils who have trail centres in Northern Ireland.</li> </ol> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|           | Ricky Rice, City Park Manager (South West)   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>  |
|           | ORNI (Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland)   |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|           | Appendix 1 – ORNI Document   |

## **Appendix A**

### **Outdoor Recreation NI management fee for work relating to Barnett's Mountain Biking Project**

This figure covers Outdoor Recreation staff costs for this project for services provided including –

#### **All funding applications including provision of all supporting evidence such as Letters of Support, existing and projected user numbers, etc.**

- Applications to RDP, SNI and Biffa Award (unsuccessful).
- Letters of support – 200+ from individual bikers, Councils - BCC, CBC, LCC. Lagan Canal Trust, LVRP, Belfast Activity Centre, Chain Reaction, Real Cycles, Bike Doc, McConvey Cycles, Belfast Urban Sports and 4 Belfast Mountain Bike Clubs.
- Meetings/liaison with all above to calculate projected user numbers for 5 yrs and produce 5 year weekly timetable of use (for SNI)
- Very close liaison with BDO to produce Economic Appraisal – most of the information and evidence used in EA provided by ORNI including all figures as above, previously commissioned reports and strategies.
- Presentation to RDP LAG

#### **Liaison with funders, trail designers and statutory bodies, landowners as required during project.**

- Weekly contact with funders – issues including procurement rules, eligible costs, project progress reports
- Regular liaison with trail designers throughout duration of project from Outline Proposal through Macro-design, Micro-design, to trails on the ground. Site walkovers, meetings, provision of supporting material. Overseeing all work.
- Outline trail design (for purpose of funding applications) paid for by ORNI £500
- Liaison with Planning NI, Northern Ireland Water, Rivers Agency, DCAL – production of supporting evidence including extensive GIS data.
- Meeting with DCAL Inland Waterways
- Meeting with QUB Malone

#### **Securing relevant consents from statutory bodies including NIEA Built Heritage and NIEA Natural Heritage**

- Very time consuming element of project – 2 ORNI staff - project officer and environmental specialist.
- Provision of all supporting evidence to NIEA Built Heritage and NIEA Natural Heritage

- Onsite meetings with NIEA staff and environmental consultants totaling 6 days – Declan Looney, Jane Preston, Terence Reeves-Smyth, Paul Logue. Liaison with Celia Spouncer re production of ecological report.

**During project tendering and build -**

- Site walkover with contractors – half day
- Attendance at all Progress Meetings with Contractors – 3+
- Regular meetings with BCC  
Meetings with CPM team on site
- Meetings with contractors on site
- Waymarking - half day on site
- Snagging – half day on site
- Sign off – half day on site
- Site walkover – half day on site

In addition

Ongoing project monitoring – extraction, collation and analysis of usage data including compulsory reporting to project funders.

Ongoing liaison with mountain biking groups to ensure use of site as required by project funders e.g. women, TSN, ethnic minority groups.



## Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Bereavement Services Improvement Programme</b>     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014                                      |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure         |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p><b>Context</b></p> <p>Following a recent review of Bereavement Services carried out independently by the Institute of Cemeteries and Crematorium Management (ICCM), an improvement programme has been developed to improve operational practices in line with industry best practice and to focus more strategically on future development. The improvement programme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational reviews of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bereavement services administrative processes and cremation application forms</li> <li>○ Recycling of metals from cremations</li> <li>○ Management and maintenance of memorials – policy and practice</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Organisational design and alignment of business support</li> <li>• Future Capital Investment – cemeteries and crematoria.</li> </ul> <p>This paper focuses on one element of the operational reviews which is the disposal of metals from cremated remains. A further report on the improvement programme will be presented to committee in early 2015.</p> <p><b>Operational Reviews – Recycling of metals from cremations</b></p> <p>Metals remains from the cremation process are principally those used in orthopaedic implants and ferrous metal used within the construction of a coffin. Precious metals, which may be left with the deceased prior to cremation, melt during the cremation process and are dispersed throughout the remains within the cremator and are reduced to tiny granules. Precious metals therefore cannot be recovered and returned to the family so it is recommended that funeral</p> |

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|  | <p>directors advise families to remove jewellery prior to the final closure of the coffin. There may also be some other small residues of non-precious metals remaining from clothing and personal effects with the deceased.</p> <p>Previously the practice at the City of Belfast Crematorium was that metal implants along with remaining ferrous metals from the construction of the coffin were removed from the cremated remains and stored in a container until there was sufficient quantity to be buried in the grounds at Roselawn - to the detriment of the environment.</p> <p>Since 2010 the City of Belfast Crematorium as a corporate member of the Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management (ICCM) has recycled these recovered metals by arranging for an approved provider (OrthoMetals) to collect the metal. OrthoMetals sorts, smelts and recycles the metal with the proceeds after costs going back to ICCM for distribution to nominated death related charities. The Council receives no funding from this arrangement.</p> <p>Since starting the scheme in 2010 metals collected from Belfast City Council has resulted in donations of approximately £7,000 per annum to charity.</p> |
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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|           | <p>As part of the review of the disposal of metals from cremations a new process will be introduced to seek acknowledgement of understanding that any metal retrieved from remains will be recycled. The bereaved families should be made fully aware of the sensitive recycling of these metals rather than their disposal in the grounds of the crematorium. The metals can be returned to the family if they so wish but this would be considered an exceptional request.</p> <p>In addition as part of this scheme the money raised from the recycling is donated by the cremation authority if they so wish to a charity of their choice. It is proposed that further consideration is given to the process for selecting a charity or charities and that a further paper is brought to committee outlining options and recommendations.</p> <p>Council officers will work with the National Association of Funeral Directors regarding the proposed changes to forms and the information about recycling of metals to be made available to bereaved families.</p> |

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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>            |
|           | No resource implications at this stage. |

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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>            |
|           | No equality implications at this stage. |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | <p>Members are requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to note the development of the Bereavement Services Improvement Programme</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to agree to continue the arrangement with ICCM for the collection of metals from cremations and subsequent donations to charities</li> <li>• to note that a further report will be brought to committee on the process for donations to charities.</li> </ul> |
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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>              |
|           | Assistant Director Parks and Leisure. |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>                            |
|           | ICCM: Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management |

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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
|           | None                      |

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### Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee   |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Donations to Societies and Hospitality for Events &amp; Meetings in 2015</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks & Leisure                                     |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Agnes McNulty, Open Spaces & Active Living Manager                              |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>Members are reminded that at its meeting on the 5 December 2013, approval was obtained for the payment of donations to Societies involved in the Spring Fair and Autumn Flower Show and for hospitality to be provided at some of the annual events, award ceremonies and stakeholder meetings organised by the Open Spaces &amp; Active Living (OS&amp;AL) Unit in 2014.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to authorise the payment of donations to the Societies in 2015 and for hospitality to be provided at events, ceremonies and meetings in 2015.</p> <p>The OS&amp;AL Unit organises the Spring Fair and the Autumn Flower Show and work in partnership with the two flower show committees during the year to organise the flower show elements. In 2014, there were over 26,000 visitors to both events which incorporated horticultural displays, childrens' entertainment, food stalls, workshops and music.</p> <p>In relation to hospitality, this year the Council provided hospitality at the Spring Fair, Primary Schools' Athletics, Photographic Competition, Rose Week; Autumn Flower Show and at meetings with various stakeholder groups such as Lagan Valley Regional Park, Belfast Hills Partnership and Volunteers of the Mountain Bike Trails at Barnett Demesne.</p> |

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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
|           | <p>The planning of the spring and autumn show elements of both events involves Officers meeting regularly with representatives from 14 horticultural societies on the two committees. These include: Friends of Bonsai; Northern Ireland Daffodil Group; Belfast and District Beekeepers' Association; Belfast Winemakers' Circle; British Cactus and Succulent Society; Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland; Irish Fuchsia and Pelargonium Society; North of Ireland Dahlia Society; Northern Ireland Bonsai Society; Northern Ireland Group of Flower Arrangement Societies; Northern Ireland Orchid Society; Northern Ireland Vegetable Association; Rose Society of Northern Ireland and the Ulster Alpine Garden Society.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Orchid Society has indicated that they will not require their financial contribution for 2015 as they will be unable to enter exhibits in both events. The £100 contributions are normally issued to the Societies involved after each event has taken place.</p> <p>The Council seeks to reinforce its partnerships with the various horticultural societies, organisations and stakeholders. Some of these partnerships have been forged over many years and continue to be successful. Throughout the year there is a significant level of voluntary involvement from some of these groups and without that support and goodwill, the continued success of such events and activities could be undermined. Similar hospitality will be required for 2015.</p> |

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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | <p><u>Financial</u><br/>£7,600 has been allocated in the revenue estimates for donations and hospitality.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u><br/>There are no additional human resources implications.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u><br/>Working in partnership with the horticultural societies and various groups provides additional assistance to the Council and helps to promote appreciation of the social value of parks.</p> |

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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>             |
|           | There are no known equality implications |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
|           | The Committee is asked to approve a £100 contribution to each of the Societies and to approve the provision of hospitality in 2015, as outlined above. |

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
|           | None                     |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>         |
|           | OS&AL – Open Spaces & Active Living |

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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
|           | None                      |

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### Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Cliftonville Football Club – Development Proposal</b>     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
|           | <p>Council officers have recently met with representatives from Cliftonville Football Club regarding proposals to a) redevelop the existing South Stand at Solitude Stadium; and b) to potentially develop for sporting use a woodland area within Waterworks adjacent to the ground. At the meeting it was stated that the priority for the Club was the development of the South Stand.</p> <p>The main discussion with Cliftonville Football Club focused around access to the laneway to facilitate the construction of the proposed new stand and general access to the laneway for pedestrians and vehicles accessing the ground. Some members will be aware that access to the laneway has been an ongoing issue between the Club and the Council since 2009 and that despite attempts to reach agreement no lasting legal agreement has been secured.</p> <p>In relation to the current proposal Members may be aware that the Department for Culture Arts and Leisure has allocated a significant budget, up to £36m, to assist Senior Clubs bring their stadia up to an appropriate standard. There are 41 Senior Clubs in Northern Ireland and all of these are eligible for funding subject to funding conditions.</p> <p>Cliftonville Football Club has indicated that it will be seeking funding from this budget and has submitted a funding application in support of its bid. It is our understanding that this is a competitive process and it is early in the process, there is therefore no certainty around funding.</p> |

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|  | <p>Members may be aware that the laneway runs between the Cliftonville Road and the Waterworks Park. It provides an important access point to the park as well as a pedestrian link between the Cliftonville Road and neighbouring localities. It also provides the only service vehicle access along the western side of this 60 acre park.</p> <p>The main implications of this for BCC are threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The construction of the stand would be much more difficult (if not impossible) without access to the laneway which is owned by BCC;</li> <li>2. A limited car parking scheme is proposed as part of the overall project and indeed may be critical to planning consent; the car parking proposal requires vehicular access along the Council owned laneway;</li> <li>3. Access along the laneway by those wishing to gain access to the ground whether it be for supporters; teams; officials; corporate sponsors; franchisees; oil deliveries or to facilitate Television crews etc.</li> </ol> <p>At this time the project is subject to statutory approvals and the securing of funding so remains at risk.</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to make members aware of the proposal and to set out an approach to working with Cliftonville Football Club to reaching an appropriate agreement.</p> |
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| <p><b>2.</b></p> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>As in the past the consent of the council is required to permit access to the laneway for both construction and for access to and from the proposed car park area which is likely to be used by Officials and corporate sponsors rather than spectators. Council has historically been sympathetic to construction works and have in the past entered into licence agreements. The matter in relation to the car parking is a different matter and will need further consideration with the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p>It is proposed that Officers continue to meet with Cliftonville Football Club to receive updates on the development of the project and to seek to reach an agreement around issues relating to use of the laneway.</p> <p>Given the long standing nature of the discussions regarding the laneway it is proposed that the issue of use of the laneway during construction and use of it post construction be concluded as a single agreement. We believe this will engender the necessary focus and urgency to bring it to a conclusion.</p> |
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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | <p>Financial Implications</p> <p>There are no financial implications at this time.</p> <p>Resource Implications</p> <p>There are no resources implications at this time.</p>                                    |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>  |
|           | There are no equality implications  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | It is recommended that the Committee note the report and agree to the approach outlined, to seek an agreement to the use of the laneway during construction and in relation to matters arising post completion. |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
|           | A further update report will be brought to Committee once further clarity has been received.  |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>   |
|           | BCC – Belfast City Council  |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|           | None  |

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### Belfast City Council

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Drumglass Park – Progress Report,</b>                     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager |

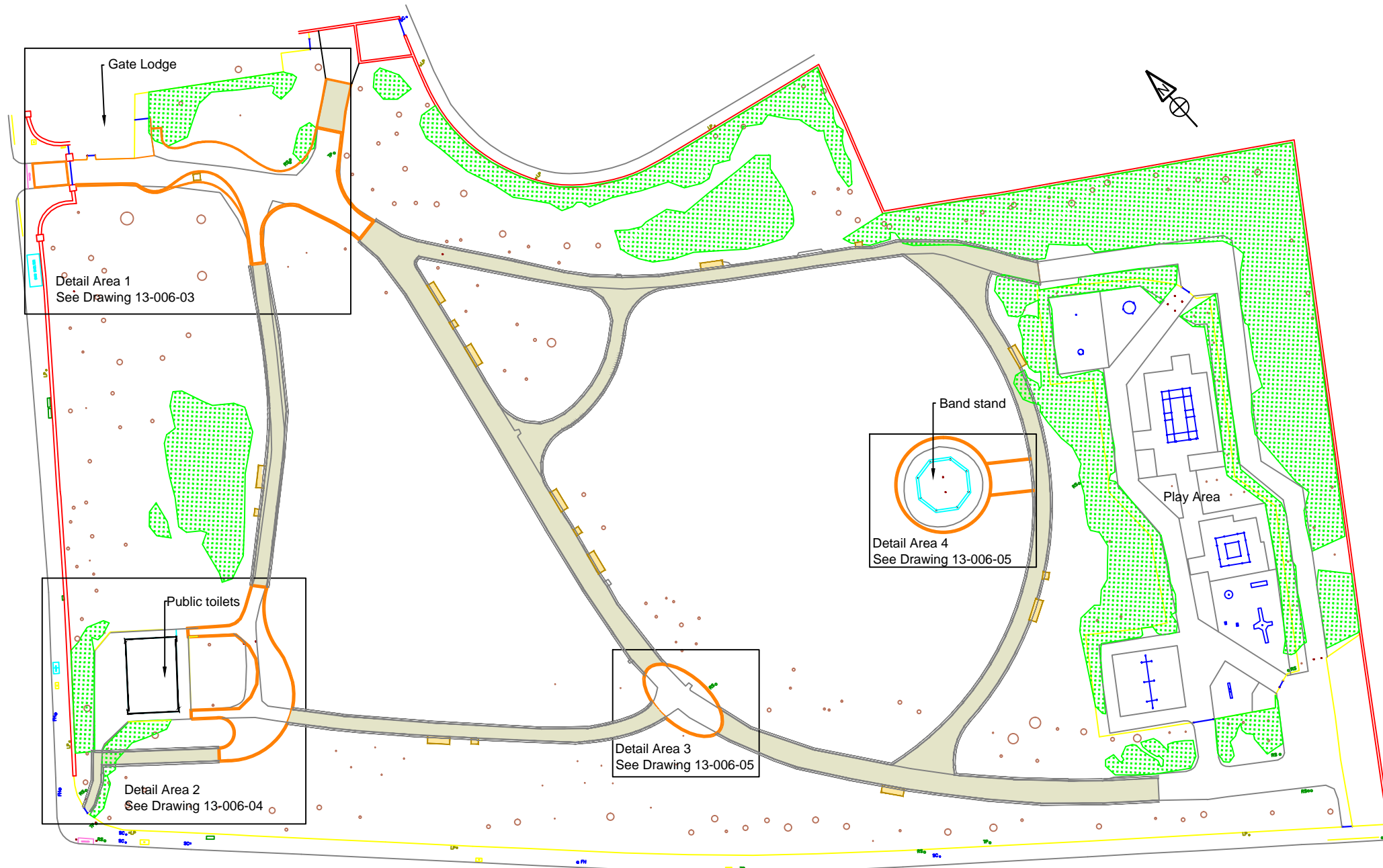
| 1. | Relevant Background Information  |
|----|--|
|    | <p>The Committee will be aware that the Council is currently carrying out enhancement works to Drumglass Park. A copy of the scheme is attached as Appendix A. While it is a relatively modest scheme it will make a positive impact on the Park. The budget for the project is £420,000.</p> <p>The work has been commissioned in phases. Phase 1 which is now complete included the realignment and widening of the existing footpaths; new seating and waste bins; a new path to form a circular route around the upper grassed area at the bandstand; removal of steps surrounding the bandstand with new paving that increase accessibility and enhance usage; new drainage was installed and some new planting at focal areas. Aligned to Phase 1 were some improvements to the underground infrastructure by Northern Ireland Water. Owing to timing and the popularity of the park over the summer months, the work was halted during July and August and into September to minimise inconvenience to Park users. Phase 1 recommenced in September 2014 and has now been completed. The snagging process has commenced.</p> <p>At the design stage drainage was identified as a key issue to the usability of the grassed areas in the park. To help alleviate the problem swales were introduced as part of a sustainable drainage system. Swales are linear grass covered depressions that are shallow and relatively wide providing temporary storage for storm water and reducing peak flows to the already overloaded mains system.</p> |

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|  | Phase 2 of the works has not yet commenced. Phase 2 will include lowering of part of the wall running along Lisburn Road; the illumination of the trees along the Lisburn Road boundary and some art pieces. |
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




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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
|           | <p>When work commenced a number of additional drainage issues were identified within the existing drainage system including a collapsed brick culvert and blockages from tree roots. The pitches behind the park boundary at Victoria school also drain directly through the weep holes of the boundary wall into the park, discharging water directly into the park. The fixing and repair of existing drainage has been rectified as part of the contract, however, the drainage of Victoria school pitches remains outstanding.</p> <p>Over the summer months Officers had received representations from several members of the public and some elected representatives complaining about a number of elements. The concerns related to (a) the finish of the work and in particular the swales; and (b) flooding at the lower grass area adjacent to the toilet block.</p> <p>Prior to the works starting the Council engaged with NIW to ensure that works would be co-ordinated to reduce disruption. However, NIW experienced delays and consequently delayed council works at the area adjacent to the toilet block.</p> <p>Owing to the break in the contract over the summer months and the very dry weather in late summer combined with the recent very wet weather has resulted in this issue being unresolved for longer than anticipated. It is accepted that the issue needs to be resolved and this has been agreed with the Consultant and the Contractor. The ground at present is very wet and we have been advised that it would be best to delay remedial action until March / April 2015. Whilst not ideal we believe this option is the correct approach.</p> <p>On the matter of flooding at the lower grassed area this was not intended to be part of the original scheme. However, some additional funding was secured and some minor drainage works have been carried out. This will we hope reduce the flooding but will not prevent it. Indeed, the flooding in the park may in some way prevent overflow of water on to the main Lisburn Road.</p> <p>Phase 2 will progress in the New Year with the finalisation of the procurement exercise for the lighting to the trees and the lowering of the wall. The Planning Service have confirmed that an application is not required to illuminate the trees while Listed Building Consent has been granted for the lowering of part of the wall running along Lisburn Road. Work will commence once temperatures are sufficient to permit work with lime mortar mix.</p> |


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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p>This report has no financial implications at this time</p> <p><b><u>Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>   |
|           | There are no equality implications   |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
|           | The Committee is asked to note the report.   |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|           | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Manager   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>  |
|           | None   |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|           | Appendix A Drawing of Drumglass Park Scheme  |

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**KEY**

-  100 x 200 x 915mm 'Acheson and Glover' bullnose concrete kerbs. See detail drawing 13-006-06
-  Asphalt footpath with 10mm granite chip and bullnose concrete kerbing as above. See detail drawing 13-006-06
-  Proposed paving areas. See detail drawings as specified
-  New seating bays for 5no. root fixed 'Hartecast' benches HC2020B and 5 no. root fixed 'Hartecast' seats HC2021S. See detail drawing 13-006-06
-  New litter bin location for 7no. 'Hartecast' litter bins HC2057. See detail drawing 13-006-06

|   |  |                        |  |                                  |                        |
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|  | <p><b>Landscape Planning &amp; Development Unit</b></p> <p>3rd Floor Adelaide Exchange,<br/>24-26 Adelaide St.,<br/>Belfast,<br/>BT2 8GD</p> |                        | <p>CLIENT<br/>BCC Parks &amp; Leisure</p>              |                                  |                        |
|   |  |                        | <p>PROJECT<br/>Drumglass Environmental Improvement</p> |                                  |                        |
|   |  |                        | <p>TITLE<br/>Landscape Works General Layout</p>        |                                  |                        |
| <p>SCALE<br/>1:1250</p>   | <p>DATE<br/>26Feb14</p>  | <p>DRAWN BY<br/>SD</p> | <p>CHECKED BY<br/>VJH</p>                              | <p>DRAWING No.<br/>13-006-02</p> | <p>VERSION<br/>DR.</p> |

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### Belfast City Council

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Development of Land at Slievegallion Drive</b>            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager |

| 1. | Relevant Background Information  |
|----|--|
|    | <p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in June 2013 it received a report outlining a proposal from De La Salle College in West Belfast to construct an artificial turf pitch and smaller pitch and associated changing pavilion on Council land at Slievegallion Drive. The Committee agreed to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle School with a view to exploring the appropriate arrangement (including leasing options) for the development of the informal space. Discussions were to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the school's business model in terms of costs and income producing capacity</li> <li>• Public Access arrangements</li> <li>• Partnership or leasing arrangements to ensure wider community use</li> <li>• Sources of funding for the development of the site.</li> </ul> <p>In March 2014 a further report was submitted which highlighted concerns by some residents regarding the proposal; these concerns focused around lack of consultation by the school and the loss of open space. At the meeting it was noted that the Member of Parliament for West Belfast had indicated that he would facilitate a community consultation with a view to resolving the issues. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to enable the member of Parliament to conclude the consultation.</p> <p>In the interim, Council officers have continued to meet with representatives from the College in relation to the pitch proposal. While there are number of issues that require further discussion it is necessary to establish a position at this time to enable progress to be made within the timescales for the project.</p> |

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| <b>2.</b>   | <b>Key Issues</b> |
| <p>Members are asked to note the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The College has approximately 1,100 pupils aged 11-18 years and has inadequate space to provide for sporting activities and opportunities;</li> <li>• Whilst the Council is sympathetic to this situation it is not sufficient in itself to warrant the transfer of the land and it is primarily a matter for the Department and the Board to address;</li> <li>• However, this location has been subject to quite serious anti social behaviour over the years;</li> <li>• The Council has no plans to refurbish the site and bring it into productive use; this would require significant capital investment on the part of the council;</li> <li>• By investing in the asset and bringing positive interventions and programming to the site there is the possibility that the site can be reclaimed and the level of anti social behaviour reduced;</li> </ul> <p>The College is currently working to bring to a conclusion to following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The business case and supporting Sports Development Plan, to include wider community use;</li> <li>• Securing the necessary funding to deliver the scheme</li> <li>• Securing planning consent and other statutory approvals; and</li> <li>• Agreement around lease arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Officials from the Department; the Council; and the College have agreed a provisional boundary, see Appendix A, however this may change subject to ongoing discussions. The redline designates the area required by the College; the area outside of this will remain under Council ownership.</p> <p>There are a number of technical issues to be resolved in relation to the management and maintenance of shared areas; car parking; entrance routes etc. However, the main issue to be resolved relates to the area of land that is outside of the pitch proposal. It has been proposed that this area be landscaped with a view to enabling its use by residents. A preliminary scheme has been prepared as part of the College's proposal at an estimated cost of £110,000; however, this cost is subject to review and further scrutiny. The Department has advised that as this outside of the pitch proposal it is not able to fund the works. The Department has, through it draft Heads of Agreement proposal, asked that the Council undertake this work. It is suggested that a portion of the fee for the land be used to fund this work.</p> <p>Should members be minded to agree to the landscaping of the area outside the pitch proposal, it is proposed that the Council's Landscape Planning and Development Unit undertake the design element of the work with a view to ensure that the scheme reflects similar Council developments and to take into account cost considerations.</p> <p>The Council has been advised by the College that a consultation exercise has been carried out in the immediate vicinity of the open space. The survey indicates that there is significant support for the development of the pitch and there is some opposition to it. We have been advised by the College</p> |                   |



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|  | <p>representatives that they had hosted a public meeting on 23 October 2013 and propose to hold further meetings on 15/16 December 2014 to enable the public to view the revised proposal prior to submission of a planning application. We have also been advised that the Member of Parliament for West Belfast has also met with both those who support the proposal and those who are opposed to it. However, we believe that no agreement was reached and that there remain those opposed to the development.</p> <p>A planning application is yet to be submitted and at that time the issue around the loss of open space can be raised in representation to the Planning Service together with other issues of concern which residents may have.</p> |
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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p>This report has no financial implications at this time, however, there may be capital implications at a future date.</p> <p><b><u>Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time; the work on the project will be carried out within existing resources.</p> |

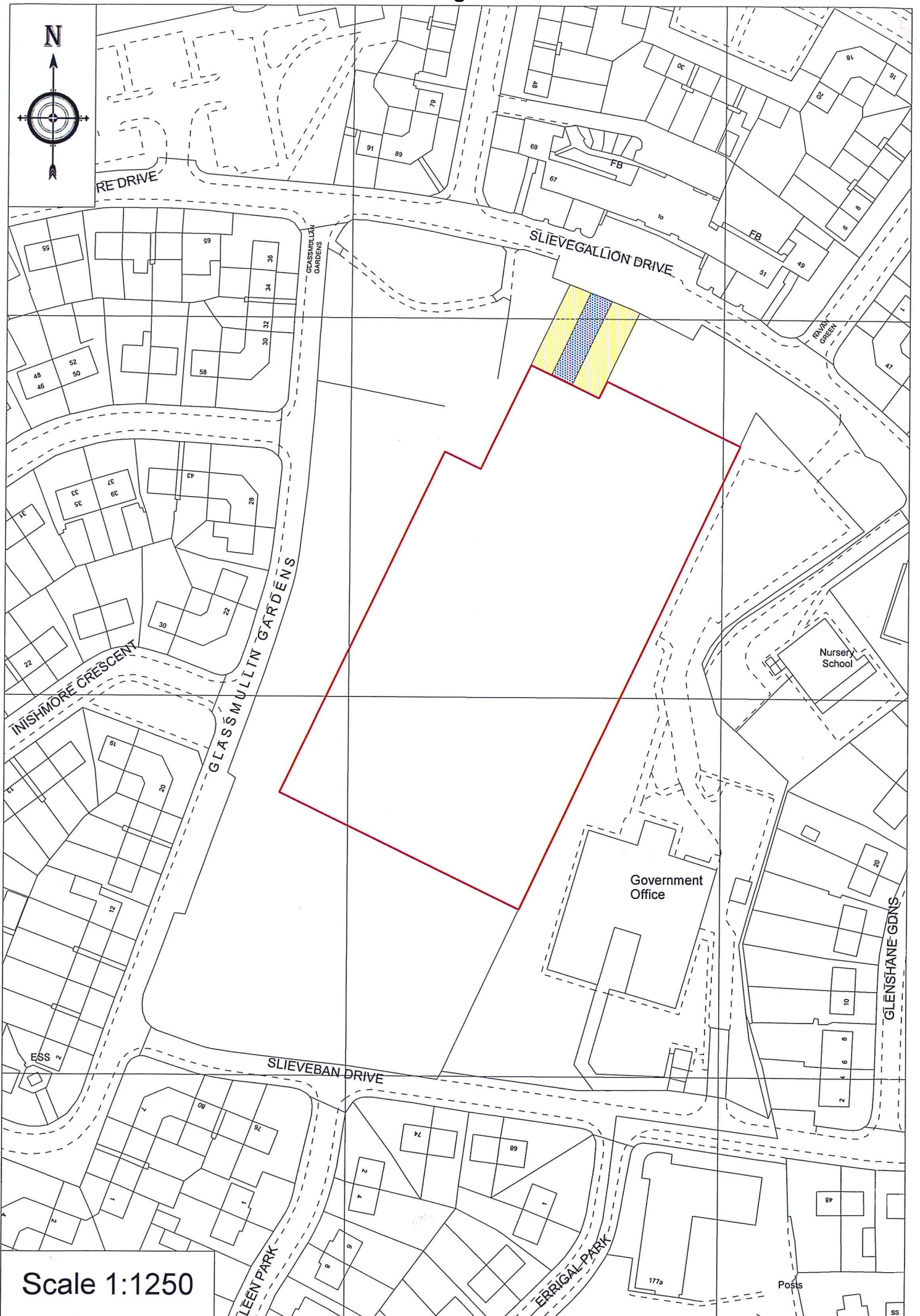
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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>       |
|           | There are no equality implications |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | <p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers continue to meet with the College representatives to progress the matter;</li> <li>2. Agree in principle to the leasing of the land subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals; securing the funding and reaching agreement with Council Officers regarding terms and conditions including a community use clause;</li> <li>3. Agree to make recommendation to Strategic Policy and Resources that the Council fund the refurbishment of the land outside of the pitch proposal using the land fee; and that the Landscape Planning and Development Unit be tasked to undertake the design element of this work.</li> </ol> |

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>             |
|           | Assistant Director Parks and Leisure |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
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| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|           | Appendix A Provisional Boundary Map<br>Appendix B Committee Report June 2013<br>Appendix C Committee Report March 2014 |



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**Belfast City Council**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                          |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Land at Slievegallion Drive</b>                   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 13 June 2013   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Property & Projects |

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|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
| 1.1      | The Council currently hold 5.253 acres of land at Slievegallion Drive shown outlined red on the map attached at Appendix 1. The land is held on a 10,000 year lease, dated 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1984, from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The lease restricts the use of the site to informal open space and NIHE consent is required for any assignment or sub letting.  |
| 1.2      | De La Salle school is located adjacent to the Council's land at Slievegallion Drive. The school have approached the Council with a proposal for the redevelopment of the Council's land at Slievegallion Drive to provide a school/community facility potentially comprising a full size GAA pitch, a smaller training pitch and a pavilion/small stand for use by the school and its three feeder primary schools during school hours and by the local community out of school hours. |
| 1.3      | The school have indicated that they are seeking a long lease (25-50 years) for the land at Slievegallion Drive from the Council in order to secure the funding required for their proposals.   |
| 1.4      | The site does not form part of the Pitches Strategy and there is currently no identified funding in the Capital Programme for the development of this land.  |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
| 2.1      | De La Salle is an all boys, non selective, secondary school with 1100 pupils. They have no adjoining outdoor pitches, they lease 2 pitches from St Genevieve's to which they bus their pupils. |

## Appendix B

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| 2.2      | The school currently make their indoor sports facilities including the gym and multi- purpose hall available out of school hours for public use and their intention would be to extend this arrangement to the proposed new pitch facilities. They advise that the indoor sports facilities are very well used by the local community.   |
| 2.3      | Officers have requested further information to include the school's business model in terms of costs, public access and income producing capacity of the facility together with clarification from the school regarding funding from Department of Education or elsewhere.   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | <b>Financial</b><br>Detailed costs and sources of funding for the De La Salle's proposals are not currently available; these will form a critical part of the further discussions to be had with De La Salle.  |
| 3.2      | <b>Human Resources</b><br>Staff resources in Parks and Leisure, Estates Management Unit and Legal Services.  |
| 3.3      | <b>Assets and Other Implications</b><br>The land is currently used as informal open space and its development as a sports facility for use by the school and the wider community in the area could provide a more sustainable use for the land with improved outcomes in terms of increased participation in sports and health and well being.   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>  |
| 4.1      | Equality implications will be fully considered if the proposal progresses.   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 5.1      | It is recommended that the Committee agree to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle school with a view to exploring the most appropriate arrangement ( including leasing options) for the redevelopment of the informal open space at Slievegallion Drive, with a further report to be brought to this Committee in due course. Discussions to include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the schools business model in terms of costs and income producing capacity</li> <li>• Public access arrangements</li> <li>• Partnership or leasing arrangements to ensure ongoing wider community use</li> <li>• Sources of funding for the redevelopment of the site</li> </ul> |

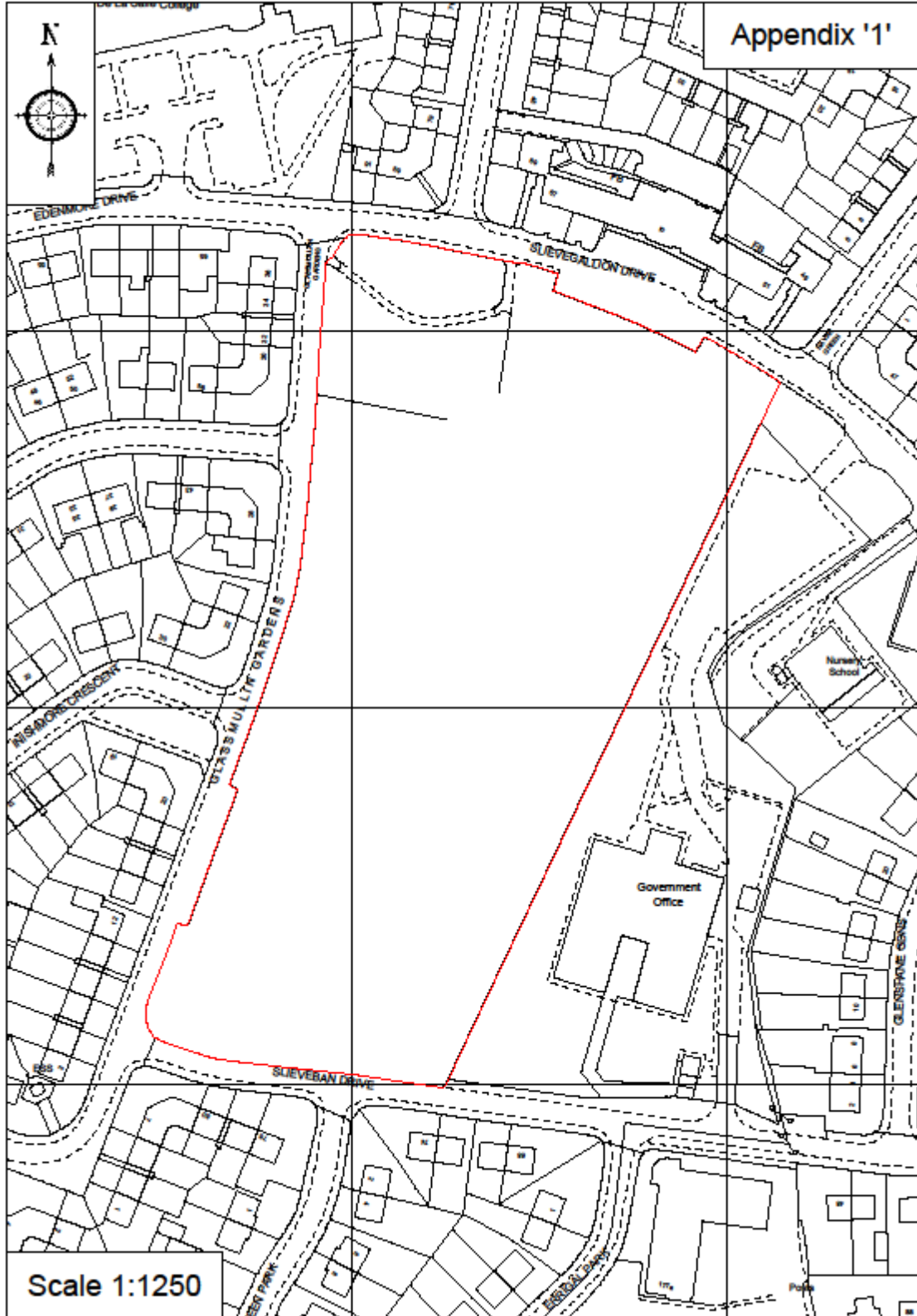
Appendix B

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
| 6.1      |                          |

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>             |
|          | NIHE Northern Ireland Housing Executive |

|          |                           |
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| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| 8.1      | Plan at Appendix '1'.     |

APPENDIX 1







## Belfast City Council

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                           |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Development of Land at Slievegallion Drive            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 13 March 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure         |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
|           | <p>In June 2013 Committee considered a request from De La Salle School for the development of land at Slievegallion Drive.</p> <p>The school approached the Council with a proposal for the redevelopment of the Council's land at Slievegallion Drive to provide a school/community facility potentially comprising a full size GAA pitch, a smaller training pitch and a pavilion/small stand for use by the school and its three feeder primary schools during school hours and by the local community out of school hours.</p> <p>The school indicated that they were seeking a long lease (25-50 years) for the land at Slievegallion Drive from the Council in order to secure the funding required for their proposals.</p> <p>Committee agreed to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle school with a view to exploring the most appropriate arrangement (including leasing options) for the redevelopment of the informal open space at Slievegallion Drive, with a further report to be brought to Committee. Discussions were to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the schools business model in terms of costs and income producing capacity</li> <li>• Public access arrangements</li> <li>• Partnership or leasing arrangements to ensure ongoing wider community use</li> </ul> |

## Appendix C

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sources of funding to redevelop the site.</li> </ul> <p>The site does not form part of the Pitches Strategy and there is currently no identified funding in the Capital Programme for the development of this land.</p> |
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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers have engaged with De La Salle School to discuss their proposal and arrangements for use of the land. This has not progressed to the point where officers can report on the business model, access arrangements, leasing arrangements and sources of funding.</li> <li>De La Salle School undertook the community consultation and engagement for the project.</li> <li>Following the initial engagement with residents, proposals were changed by the school and further consultation was then undertaken by them.</li> <li>Local residents have approached the Council with concerns about the proposed development and the level of consultation to date.</li> <li>Residents were concerned that a Planning application has been submitted for the development of the site.</li> <li>Residents raised particular concerns about why the Council, as land owner, has not consulted the local community about the use of the land.</li> <li>Concerns were raised about the nature and extent of the consultation with a view that it was not inclusive of all residents and that feedback on issues raised has not been provided by the school.</li> <li>Residents were concerned about the loss of amenity as this is the only open space available to them in a densely built up area.</li> <li>Residents have formed a Residents Group in October 2013 around the issue.</li> <li>Residents were seeking assurance from Council that formal consultation would take place with the local community about the use of the land.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p><u>Financial</u><br/>No financial implications at this stage.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u><br/>None</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u><br/>None at this stage.</p> |

## Appendix C

|           |   |
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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>  |
|           | None  |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | Members are asked to consider the request by residents representing the Slievegallion/Glassmullan area that Council undertakes a consultation with the local community about the use of the land at Slievegallion Park. |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
|           | Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>   |
|           | GAA – Gaelic Athletic Association   |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|           | None  |

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**Belfast City Council**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Disposal of Land at Orangefield</b>                   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext 3400. |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Ext. 3493.              |

|          |   |
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| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
| 1.1      | In 1988 the former Parks Committee approved disposal of portions of land to the rear of properties at 90 to 118 Orby Drive, Belfast. The owner of 116/118 (trading as the Lawnmower Centre) subsequently purchased the land shaded blue on Appendix 1 (approx. 188 square metres) from the Council, for the sum of £340.  |
| 1.2      | The Council has recently been approached by the new owner of 116/118 Orby Drive who is seeking to acquire the remaining small area of Council land which adjoins his premises (as outlined red on Appendix 1). This area which comprises approximately 54 square metres is currently unused by the Council (see attached photograph - Appendix 2 - which shows the main portion of the site). Some use of the land appears to have been made by the previous and new owners of 116/118 Orby Drive to obtain access to the rear of their premises. |
| 1.3      | Council Departments have been circulated to ascertain if any service needs exists for the subject land. No interest has been expressed by Departments.  |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | The land forms part of Orangefield Playing Fields however in common with the other land to the rear of 90 to 118 Orby Drive it is cut-off from the remainder of the Council owned land by a steep sided stream. The land currently has no recreational purpose for the Council and it is not required in connection with provision of any other Council services (see 1.3 above). |
| 2.2      | On account of the small size of the plot and its location, the best price obtainable from its disposal, will be from the adjoining owner at 116/118 Orby Drive. An off-market disposal to the owner of the adjoining property is therefore considered to be the best  |

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|     | <p>approach to disposal of the 54 square metres outlined red on Appendix 1. In view of this negotiations were opened with the adjoining owner and a value of £1500 was agreed. Taking account of the physical characteristics of the land and its location, this is considered to be the best price obtainable for the land in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations (Local Government (NI) Act 1972).</p> |
| 2.3 | <p>The Council's title at Orangefield is free of restrictive covenants. The other lands disposed of at 90 to 118 Orby Drive were sold without restrictions and it is proposed to maintain consistency with those disposals and not impose any restrictions on the future use of the subject land.</p>  |
| 2.4 | <p>A Northern Ireland Electricity cable is installed across the land and a revision of any existing Wayleave Agreement with NIE, may be required to reflect the proposed change in ownership of the subject plot. NIE are currently checking their records.</p>  |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
| 3.1      | <p>Finance<br/>The disposal of this land at best price, £1500, with each side bearing their own legal costs is considered advantageous to the Council.</p>  |
| 3.2      | <p>Human Resources<br/>Resources in Estates Management Unit and Legal Services will be involved in drafting, agreeing and completion of legal documents associated with disposal. In view of the previous disposals at this location this process should be relatively simple and straightforward.</p>  |
| 3.3      | <p>Asset and Other Implications<br/>The 54 square metres being considered for disposal is currently unused and appears not to be actively maintained by the Council. In view of this, plus the absence of any other service requirements and the existing physical separation of this land from the remainder of Orangefield Playing Fields, disposal is considered an appropriate option. The stream bed and banks are partly enclosed by a concrete post and wire fence, part of which lies on the subject 54 square metres. The purchaser has agreed to be responsible for provision of any fencing required on the land being disposed of with any new fencing to tie in with any existing fencing.</p> |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>                                  |
| 4.1      | <p>There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p> |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 5.1      | <p>Committee is recommended to approve the disposal of the land, outlined red on Appendix 1, to Mr Jeffrey Blair, for the sum of £1,500 subject to the authorisation from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders and subject to appropriate legal documents to be prepared by the Town Solicitor. Committee is further recommended to provide approval to any appropriate revised Wayleave Arrangements as may be agreed between Estates Management Unit and Northern Ireland Electricity in connection with the existing cables through the subject</p> |

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|  | land. |
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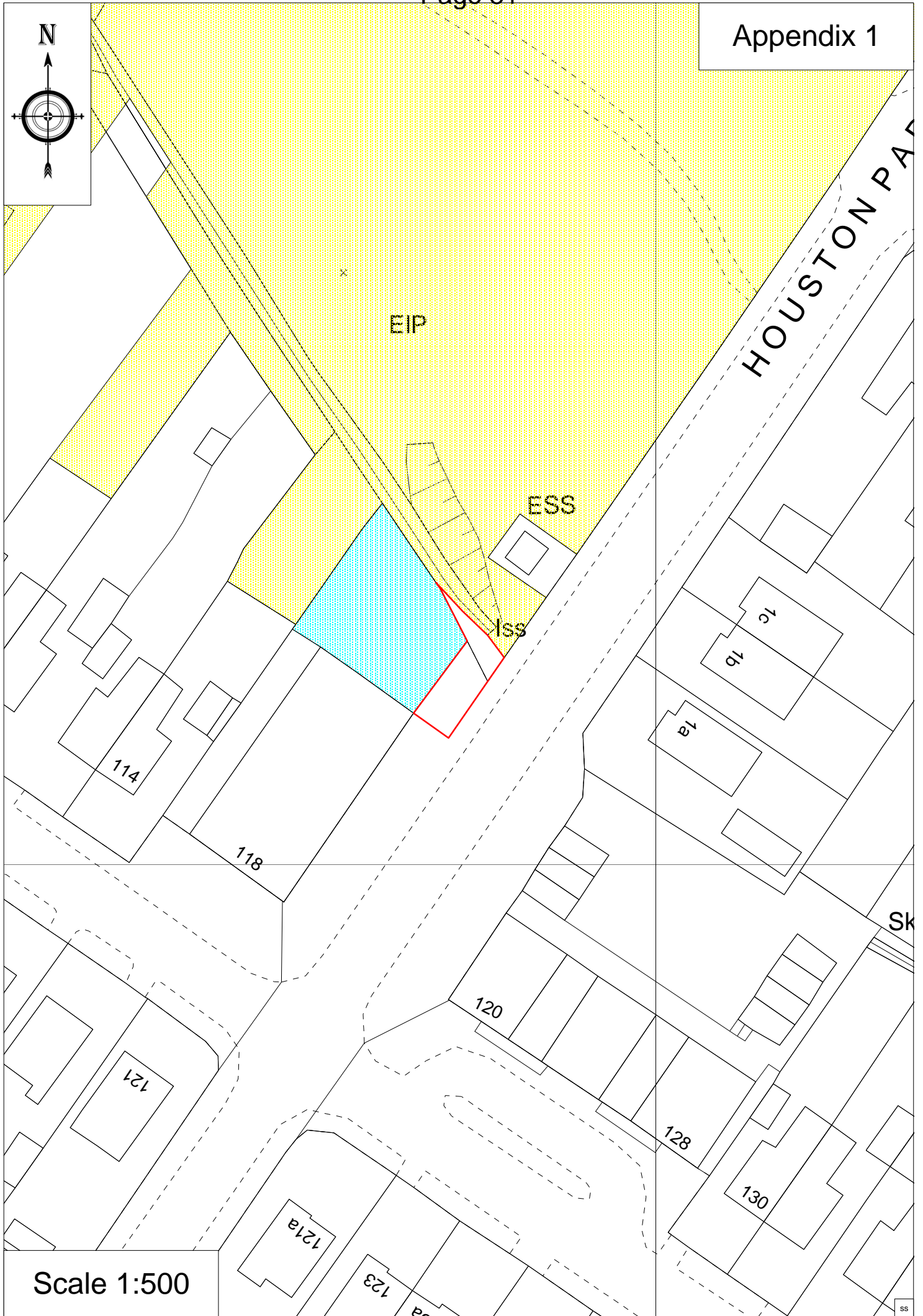
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| <b>6</b>  | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
| The Director of Parks and Leisure to liaise with the Director of Property and Projects with a view to bringing a report to the next available Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. |                          |

|          |                             |
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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
| None     |                             |

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| <b>8</b>   | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| <p>Appendix 1 – Map showing, outlined red, the area being considered for disposal, with remaining land in Council ownership shaded yellow. The land shaded blue was previously disposed of by the Council to the previous owner of 118 Orby Drive.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Photograph illustrating, outlined red, the main part of the land being considered for disposal.</p> |                           |

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**Belfast City Council**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks & Leisure Committee  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Licence to Farrans for site compound at Severn Street / CCG Contract |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure                        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Celine Dunlop—Estates Surveyor Ext: 3419                             |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
| 1.1      | Members will be aware that the delivery of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme/ Connswater Community Greenway (EBFAS/CCG) is a key project within the City Investment Programme. This scheme involves the creation of a 16km walk and cycle way and extensive flood alleviation works along the Knock, Loop and Connswater Rivers in East Belfast. Funding for the scheme is provided by the Big Lottery, Belfast City Council, DSD and the Rivers Agency. |
| 1.2      | The Council have recently appointed Farrans to construct of phase 11 of the EBFAS/CCG; work is expected to start mid January 2015.   |
| 1.3      | Farrans have a requirement for a site compound close to the Hollywood Arches and Council officials have identified the area shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix '1' as being suitable and available for use by Farrans for the duration of the contract.   |
| 1.4      | The project manager for the EBFAS/CCG has consulted with the Ballymacarrett Community Centre Manager and Leisure Services who have both agreed that the area shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix'1' can be used as a compound for the construction of the EBFAS/CCG.   |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
| 2.1      | Farrans have a requirement for a site compound to facilitate the work on the EBFAS/CCG. Council officers have agreed, subject to member's approval, to grant Farrans a licence to use the area of land shown outlined red on the plan attached from 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 until the completion of phase 11 of the EBFAS/CCG contract. Completion of the contract is scheduled for June 2016. |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | <b><u>Finance</u></b><br>Farrans will pay £60.00 pa as a licence fee for the site compound.  |
| 3.2      | <b><u>Assets</u></b><br>The land will remain in the ownership of the Council and will be fully reinstated and resurfaced by Farrans before being handed back to the Council. |
| 3.3      | <b><u>Human Resources</u></b><br>Officers from Estates and Legal Services will, subject to Members approval, complete the licence to Farrans.                                |

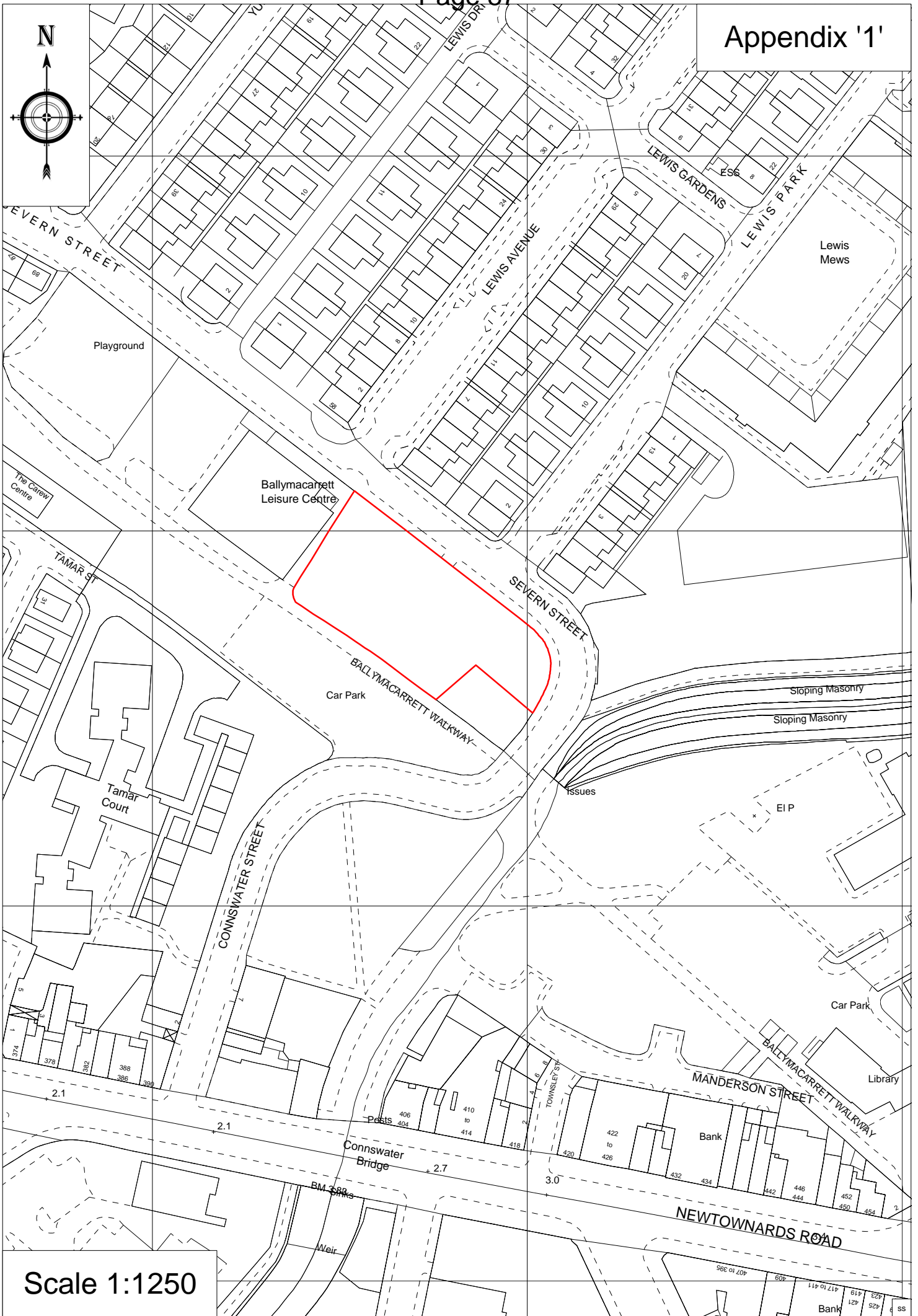
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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>  |
| 4.1      | There are no equality or good relations issues associated with Farrans' requirements for a site compound at Severn Street. |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 5.1      | Members are asked to approve the grant of a licence to Farrans for the duration of the EBFAS/CCG contract on terms and conditions to be agreed with the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services subject to approval by the SP&R Committee in line with standing orders. |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
| 6.1      | Director of Property and Projects to ensure completion of the licence to Farrans, if approved by Members. |

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>   |
| 7.1      | EBFAS/CCG East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme/Connswater Community Greenway |

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| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| 8.1      | Plan at Appendix '1'      |



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### Belfast City Council

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Skegoneill Health Centre</b>                          |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager |

|           |   |
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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
| 1.1       | The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status of the site of the former Skegoneill Health centre. |

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| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
| 2.1       | The Committee is reminded that in December 2013 it agreed that the former Skegoneill Health Centre site be transferred to the Corporate Land Bank subject to approval by Strategic Policy and Resources. At this time it was highlighted to Members that the site had remained derelict and unused since the closure of the health centre and that the site had been used as a location for a bonfire in 2012 and 2013. The site was used as a bonfire location again this year. |
| 2.2       | The matter was considered by Strategic Policy and Resources in January 2014, who agreed to the transfer subject to agreement around the bonfire issue. However as highlighted the bonfire issue remains unresolved and the site continues to be a hot spot for anti-social behaviour. This has led to concerns by local residents and the PSNI. The site remains therefore within the operational control of the Parks & Leisure Committee.                                      |
| 2.3       | Members are asked to note that the site has recently been identified in the published BMAP as "Land Identified for Open Space" and thus has very limited development potential at this time. The Council, via involvement of the Good Relations Unit/Community Safety Unit is working alongside  |

|  |  |
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|  | Parks & Leisure officers on addressing the community issues outlined in this report. |
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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional financial costs at this time, although there maybe future capital and revenue implications.</p> <p><b><u>Human Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time other than officer time.</p> |

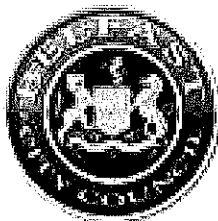
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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>        |
|           | There are no equality implications. |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | The Committee is asked to note the report and that officers are continuing at look at options for the site and working to help address the issues outlined. |

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| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>                              |
|           | Further update reports will be brought in due course. |

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| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>               |
|           | PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>                   |
|           | Appendix A – December 2013 Committee Report |



### Belfast City Council

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                              |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Skegoniel Health Centre</b>                           |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 5 December 2013  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Caroline Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio Programme Manager |

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
|           | <p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in August 2010 it was asked to consider placing the former Skegoniel Health Centre Site within the Council's Corporate Land Bank. The Committee agreed to this however, the matter was taken back at Council and reconsidered by the Committee in September 2010. At the time it was agreed that alternative uses of the land would be explored.</p> <p>Members are reminded that as part of the partnership arrangement with the North and West Trust relating to the development of the New Grove Wellbeing Centre it had been agreed that the site of the former Skegoniel Health Centre would revert to the Council upon completion of the scheme and relocation of the Health Centre within the new Grove Health and Well Being Centre.</p> <p>The current position is that the former Health Centre site now sits under the management of Parks and Leisure. The site has remained derelict and unused and in 2013 it became the location for a small bonfire in the area.</p> <p>Appendix 1 shows the location of the site which abuts Grove Playing Fields and the Grove Health and Well Being Centre. Whilst the site is alongside the Playing Fields there is a difference in the levels and access between the two sites would be limited unless some re-grading was undertaken along the boundary between the sites.</p> |

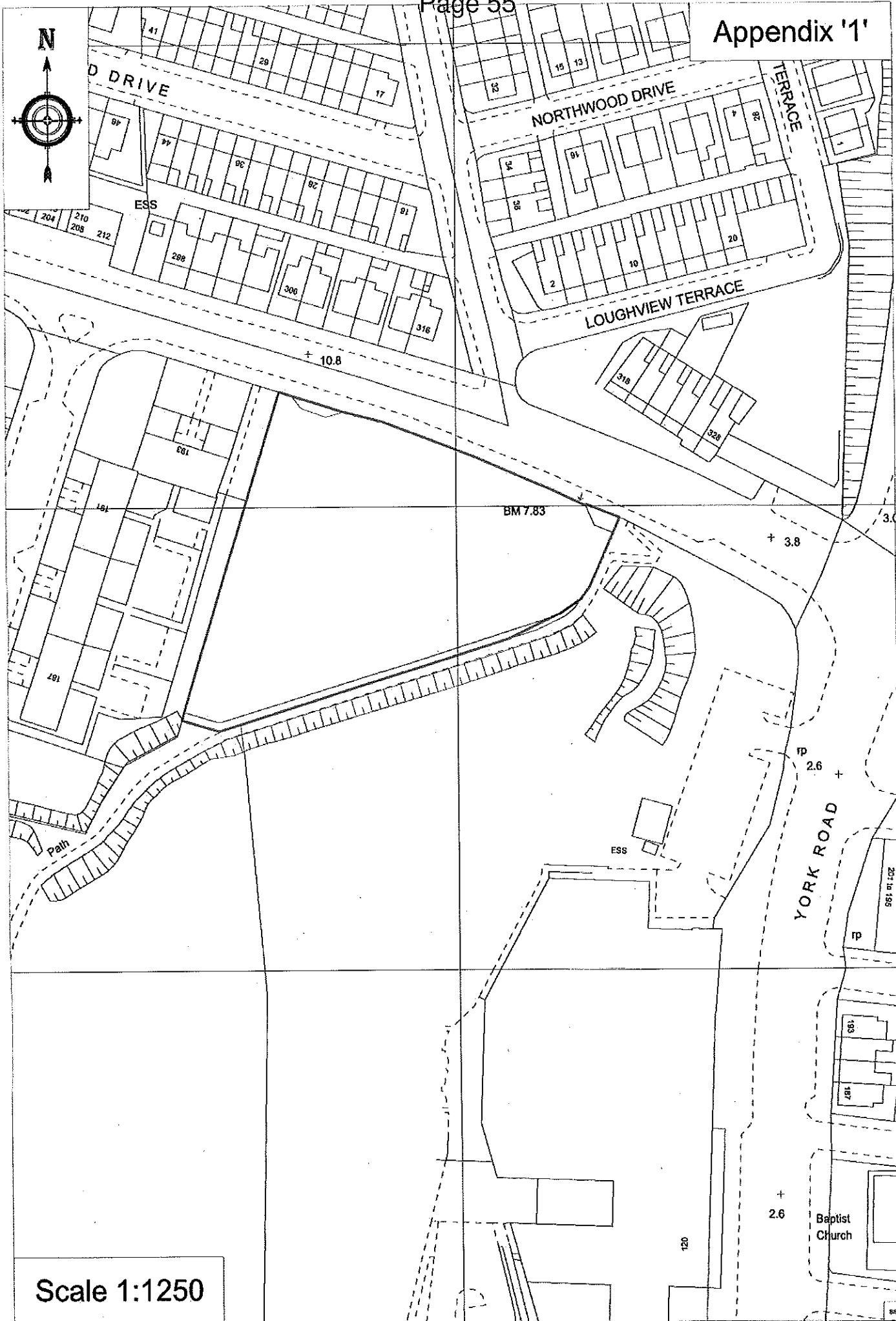
|  |
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| <p>Members are asked to note that there are no conditions attached to the transfer of the land and there is no requirement that it be retained or developed as open space.</p> <p>Should the site continue to be retained by Parks and Leisure there are two options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The site remains as is without development; and</li> <li>2. The site is developed as a discrete location.</li> </ol> <p>A series of options have been discussed. There is the potential to develop the site:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a playground;</li> <li>2. As a multi user games area;</li> <li>3. As a community garden;</li> <li>4. As an outdoor gym area;</li> <li>5. As a landscaped area</li> </ol> <p>Depending on the nature and extent of the proposal, costs could vary from £100,000 to £250,000. These items would all constitute capital projects and would be subject to prioritisation and approval through SP&amp;R.</p> <p>Within the context of the current affordability limits one alternative would be to declare the site surplus to the operational requirements of the Parks and Leisure Department and that it be transferred to the Council's corporate land bank (managed by Property and Projects Department, Estates Management Unit) wherein any potential use by other Council Departments would be considered and a planning assessment could be carried out to consider development options.</p> |
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|                  |   |
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| <p><b>2.</b></p> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p>  |
|                  | <p>The key issues for the Committee to consider are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The former Skegoniel Health Centre Site has been acquired by Belfast City Council as part of the arrangement with the North and West Trust. The site has no restrictions attached to its transfer.</li> <li>• The Parks and Leisure Department has considered development options for Park use and has concluded there is no operational need for the site and that the Department do not have the resources to develop it.</li> <li>• It is therefore proposed that it be placed within the corporate land bank for consideration of options re future development potential.</li> </ul> |

## Appendix A

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | <p data-bbox="320 282 655 315"><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="320 353 1369 533">There are no additional financial costs to the Council at this stage. Potential savings of development costs to provide alternative Parks and Leisure use are provided within the body of this report. The potential financial implications arising from any alternative use are not known at this time.</p> <p data-bbox="320 539 746 573"><b><u>Human Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="320 611 1235 645">There are no additional human resource implications at this time.</p> <p data-bbox="320 683 727 716"><b><u>Asset and Other implications</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="320 754 1294 831">The transfer of the asset would enable a wider range of options to be considered which might enable the site to be developed.</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>  |
|           | There are no equality implications.   |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | It is recommended that the Committee agree to declare the former Skegoniel Health Centre Site surplus to Parks and Leisure Departmental requirements and further agree that a report be brought to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in line with Standing Orders.   |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
|           | No further reports are required.  |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>   |
|           | None  |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|           | Appendix 1 – Site Map   |





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**Belfast City Council**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                      |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Sewer Installation at Ormeau Park – Impact on BMX Track</b>   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext. 3400.        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext 3460. |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>  |
| 1.1      | At its meeting on 11 September 2014 Committee approved allocation of £26,000 from within existing budgets in order to complete the current phase of development of the BMX Track at Ormeau Park.  |
| 1.2      | In the interim the Council has been approached by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) with a proposal to install a new storm sewer across Ormeau Park. The storm sewer is designed to provide drainage for a recent housing development at Park Parade.  |
| 1.3      | Council officers are working with NIW to minimise the impact of the sewer on the Council's landholding, however it appears likely the final route will run through the site of the BMX Track. In view of this and in order to avoid nugatory public expenditure it has been proposed that completion of the BMX Track be delayed until after completion of the NIW installations. |
| 1.4      | Based on current estimates it is envisaged NIW's works will be completed in Ormeau Park by mid March 2015 and that the Council's works to complete the BMX Track will therefore be deferred until April 2015.   |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | The Council is currently in the process of agreeing a 'least worst' route for the NIW sewer and will thereafter await service of a statutory notice by NIW in relation to the proposed works. Following an appropriate notice period NIW will carry out works thereafter, including reinstatement of the BMX Track to its current condition. Officers will work with NIW to allow their works to proceed as soon as possible. |
| 2.2      | Completion of the BMX Track will immediately follow completion of NIW works.  |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
| 3.1      | <p>Finance<br/>None associated with this report. The Council will have an opportunity to make a claim for compensation from NIW in due course, including a claim in respect to any additional costs incurred by the Council as a result of the installation works.</p>  |
| 3.2      | <p>Human Resources<br/>No human resource implications associated with this report.</p>  |
| 3.3      | <p>Asset and Other Implications<br/>Officers have endeavoured to reduce the impact on the Council's asset by suggesting a preferred sewer route as close as reasonably possible to the Park boundaries. Alternative routes, including part of the installation being sited along the public road and/or on nearby development land have been rejected by NIW as being too disruptive.</p> |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>                           |
| 4.1      | There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report. |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                 |
| 5.1      | Members are asked to note the contents of this report. |

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| <b>6</b>       | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
| None required. |                          |

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| <b>7</b>                     | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
| NIW – Northern Ireland Water |                             |

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
| None.    |                           |



**Belfast City Council**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Licence Agreement – Bike Docks at Lagan Valley Regional Park             |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, Ext. 3400.                |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager, Ext. 3510. |

| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|----------|--|
| 1.1      | At its meeting on 20 August 2013 the Development Committee agreed to contribute a sum of £9,475, as Belfast City Council's contribution towards the installation of a series of interpretative panels and bicycle stands within the Belfast City Council portion of Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP). Some of the bicycle stands were to be installed on land owned by BCC. |
| 1.2      | In mid-October 2014 Parks and Leisure Department received a request from Castlereagh Borough Council (acting on behalf of LVRP) to install bicycle stands on a series of Council owned sites within the LVRP.  |
| 1.3      | Proposed bicycle stand locations at Mary Paters Track, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Clement Wilson Park have been agreed between officers and LVRP and are shown (marked red) on the attached maps (Appendix 1).   |
| 1.4      | In order to regulate the installation of the proposed bicycle stands it is proposed a Licence Agreement be entered into between LVRP and the Council to document the responsibilities of the parties and to ensure there is a mechanism to allow the Council to approve the nature and position of the relevant stands.  |
| 1.5      | Lagan Valley Regional Park is a partnership which includes Belfast City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council, Lisburn City Council, Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the National Trust, the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, and Outdoor Recreation NI.   |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | Installation of the proposed bicycle stands at Council locations will be subject to their compliance with Council standards, the requirements of the Council's title to the sites and any other statutory or regulatory requirements. Ownership and responsibility for the bicycle stands will pass to Belfast City Council following their successful installation. While there is no contractual obligation upon the Council to maintain the stands, it is likely that some level of maintenance will be undertaken to ensure that the stands remain functional and to an acceptable standard to comply with the Health and Safety Requirements |
| 2.2      | The design and specification of the proposed bicycle stands will be agreed by officers within Parks and Leisure Department and will be incorporated within the proposed Licence Agreement.  |

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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.1      | <p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The bicycle stands are part of a larger raft of works across the LVRP which are being funded through the Northern Ireland Regional Development Programme. The Council's contribution per Development Committee (not to exceed) £9475 was towards the provision of interpretative panels and bicycle stands throughout those parts the LVRP within the (new) Belfast City Council boundary. No other Council capital costs are associated with the bicycle stand installations. As the bicycle stands are designed to benefit Council facilities no Licence Fee is appropriate in this case.</p> |
| 3.2      | <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Officers from Parks and Leisure Department involved in agreeing locations and specifications, officers from Parks and Leisure, Estates Management Unit and Legal Services involved in drawing up and agreeing the terms of the proposed Licence Agreement.</p>  |
| 3.3      | <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The introduction of these new installations is designed to enhance the attractiveness of the parks (and LVRP) to cycle users.</p>  |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>                           |
| 4.1      | There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report. |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 5.1      | Committee is recommended to authorise the grant of a Licence Agreement to allow Lagan Valley Regional Park's contractors access to the Council sites listed in this report, for the installation of approved bicycle stands and for ownership of those stands to transfer to the Council upon their successful installation, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b> |
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Director of Parks and Leisure to ensure Licence Agreement is implemented prior to installation of any of the proposed bicycle stands.

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| <b>7</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b> |
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BCC – Belfast City Council  
LVRP – Lagan Valley Regional Park

|          |                           |
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| <b>8</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b> |
|----------|---------------------------|

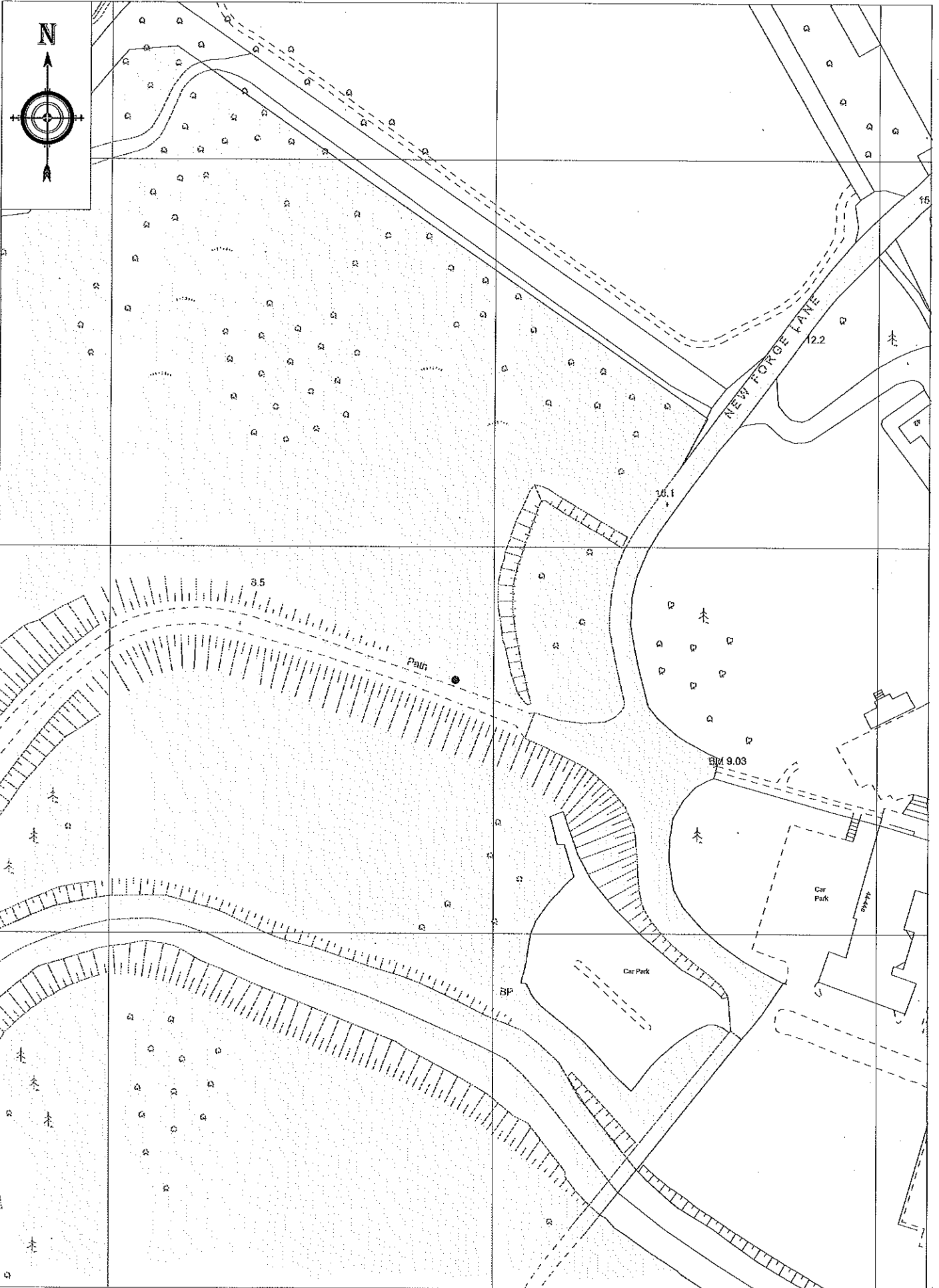
Appendix 1 – Maps showing locations of proposed bike dock at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Clement Wilson Park marked in red with surrounding Council land shaded yellow.

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Proposed Bicycle Stand locations at Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park



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Proposed Bicycle Stand location at Clement Wilson Park





## Belfast City Council

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                    |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Request to dedicate an area of Shankill Memorial Garden</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure                  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure          |

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
|           | <p>The department has received a request from the Shankill Suicide Awareness/Prevention Group to dedicate an area in the corner of Shankill Memorial Garden in memory of loved ones who have committed suicide. This is to raise awareness of suicide and to acknowledge the impact it has on families and communities. It is proposed that the area would be marked by the placing of a plaque on a park bench.</p> <p>The organisation has also requested use of the garden to hold an annual memorial event on World Suicide Day which is 10 September. This event took place successfully in 2014 and was widely supported across the community.</p> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>  |
|           | <p>Council officers will work with the organisation to agree the wording on the plaque.</p> <p>The annual event will be subject to an agreed event plan and will be required to meet all health and safety and legal requirements.</p>   |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>   |
|           | <p>The organisation has requested that Council funds the erection of the memorial plaque. The cost is estimated to be approximately £200 and can be accommodated within the area revenue budget.</p>   |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>   |
|           | <p>A number of events take place in other parts of the city e.g. Survivors of Suicide – CCG, PIPS in Waterworks and Falls Family Voices. This event would meet the needs of the community in this area.</p>  |

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| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
|           | Members are asked to agree : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to the erection of a memorial plaque dedicated to suicide awareness in Shankill Memorial Garden subject to agreement on wording and</li><li>• to an annual memorial event taking place subject to satisfying the Councils terms and conditions.</li></ul> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|           | Assistant Director Parks and Leisure.  |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>  |
|           | CCG – Connswater Community Greenway  |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|           | NONE   |



### Belfast City Council

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                   |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Extension to approved tender</b>           |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014                |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager               |

#### 1. Relevant Background Information

At Parks and Leisure committee on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 committee gave approval for the award of a number of tenders including that for the supply of grounds maintenance machinery as part of our planned procurement process.

#### 2. Key Issues

In order to equip the mobile gardening teams being set up to cover the Lisburn and Castlereagh parks sites transferring from 1 April 2015 an extension to the grounds maintenance machinery contract is required to allow for the timely ordering of equipment and to ensure the service is ready for the commencement of operations .

| Item   | Lisburn | Castlereagh | Number required |
|--|---------|-------------|-----------------|
| Front deck rotary mower  | 2       | 0           | 2               |
| 48" Heavy duty pedestrian rotary mower                                   | 2       | 1           | 3               |
| Bowling green cylinder mower   | 0       | 1           | 1               |
| 21" Pedestrian power driven rotary mower – rear discharge and collection | 2       | 1           | 3               |
| 21" Pedestrian front wheel power driven mulch mower                      | 2       | 1           | 3               |
| Back pack petrol blower  | 2       | 2           | 4               |
| Light weight line trimmer  | 2       | 2           | 4               |

The above equipment is required to be purchased to ensure the effective operation of the transferring sites.

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| <b>3.</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b>  |
|           | <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The total value of the equipment outlined above is estimated to be £25k and this has been requested as part of the LGR service convergence estimate setting process for the department and is subject to those funds being made available.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>The provision of this equipment will ensure the effective maintenance of the assets transferring.</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality and good relations implications</b>   |
|           | There are no equality implications.   |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
|           | Committee is asked to agree to the extension of this tender as outlined above.  |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>  |
|           | Director of Parks and Leisure   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>   |
|           | LGR – Local Government Reform   |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|           | None  |

# Agenda Item 18

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2, 3 of the Council's Policy on the Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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### Belfast City Council

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                                  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Proposed Playground Development at Sliabh Dubh</b>        |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 11 December 2014   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure        |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager |

| 1. | Relevant Background Information  |
|----|--|
|    | <p>The Committee is referred to Appendix A attached to this report. Appendix A is a copy of a report considered by the Parks and Leisure Committee in October 2008. The report related to playground provision at 2 locations in Belfast, Eversleigh Street in East Belfast and Sliabh Dubh estate in West Belfast. The report sought authority to accept the transfer of land from DSD / Fold Housing Association respectively and to accept the ongoing management and maintenance of these facilities both completion of the works. In both cases the land was to be transferred at nil cost and the capital cost was to be incurred by the Department for Social Development.</p> <p>In relation to Eversleigh Street the scheme was completed and is now a Council asset.</p> <p>However, the Sliabh Dubh scheme was not completed. A Planning Application had been submitted; however the contamination survey was inconclusive and left a number of issues unresolved; as a result the Planning Application was withdrawn and proposed funding from DSD was also withdrawn. The project has remained under consideration in the interim and a number of meetings with representatives from Sliabh Dubh have taken place; Fold Housing Association and the Council to attempt to move the project forward.</p> <p>Fold Housing Association has received a contamination survey which has clarified the issues around ground water movement and gas dispersion. In essence, the development of a playground scheme could procure and the contamination could be remediated as part of that development.</p> |

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|  | <p>The Council has now been asked to re-affirm its original position from October 2008 regarding the site. That position is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC agrees to acquire the land at nil cost, subject to reaching agreement with Fold; and subject to the other statutory approvals being in place and external funding being secured for the delivery of the project;</li> <li>• BCC agrees to support the development of the project, including planning consent and project management;</li> <li>• BCC agrees to undertake the maintenance and management of the facility post completion, including adding it to its Insurance Schedule of assets;</li> <li>• BCC agrees to recommend that the project be added to its capital programme at no cost to the council subject to external funding</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>2.</b></p> | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>The Committee is asked to note that historically the Council has looked sympathetically at similar requests providing the capital cost can be met by an external source. Therefore it is proposed that this approach be continued in this instance and the decision from October 2008 be reaffirmed.</p> <p>There are three main issues for the Members to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is currently no funding source identified;</li> <li>• The land is owned by Fold Housing Association who have indicated that they would transfer the land to the council at nil cost, although that has not been confirmed in writing;</li> <li>• There is no planning approval in place.</li> </ul> <p>To progress the scheme it is proposed that the previous planning application be resubmitted by BCC together with the revised contamination survey. In addition it is proposed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The land is not transferred until funding has been secured;</li> <li>2. planning approval has been obtained; and</li> <li>3. written confirmation from Fold HA that they will transfer the land at nil cost and meet the cost of remediation</li> </ol> |
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| <p><b>3.</b></p> | <p><b>Resource Implications</b></p> <p><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p>This report has no financial implications at this time; however should the scheme proceed there will be a revenue trail plus future capital liability in regard to replacement of the facility through normal and tear.</p> <p><b><u>Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time other than staff time from within existing resources.</p> |
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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Equality Implications</b>   |
|           | There are no equality implications   |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
|           | <p>The Committee is asked to re-affirm its position from October 2008 and agree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• acquire the land at nil cost; subject to reaching an appropriate agreement with Fold Housing Association regarding the transfer of the land; the necessary statutory approvals being obtained and external funding secured; and on condition that any remediation is undertaken by Fold HA prior to construction or in the case of the remediation being undertaken as part of the construction works that the cost is met in full by Fold HA;</li> <li>• undertake the development of the project, including submission for planning consent;</li> <li>• undertake the maintenance and management of the facility post completion, including adding it to its Insurance Schedule of assets;</li> <li>• recommend that the project be added to its capital programme at no cost to the council subject to external funding</li> </ul> |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>   |
|           | A further report will be brought to Committee at a later date to outline progress.   |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Key to Abbreviations</b>  |
|           |  |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|           | Appendix A Committee Report October 2008   |



**Belfast City Council**

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee  |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | Playground Provision – Eversleigh Street/Sliabh Dubh               |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 9 October 2008   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure                      |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager |

**Relevant Background Information**

Officers from Parks and Cemeteries have been involved in discussions with local residents and other statutory agencies including Belfast Regeneration Office and Fold Housing Association. These discussions have centred on the need for a play area within the newly constructed Sliabh Dubh Housing Estate in West Belfast and for a similar facility in Eversleigh Street in the East of the City.

The Committee is reminded that at its meetings in January and February 2008 it received reports related to the provision of a playground at Eversleigh street in the Woodstock Road area. The Committee has agreed that the Council would seek the acquisition of the land from the Housing Executive at nil cost, would provide project management and design support to the community and would support the community in attracting external funding to meet the capital cost of the project.

The Committee is advised that a scheme has been prepared and the Department for Social Department (Physical Renewal Branch) has agreed to meet the capital cost of the work at Eversleigh Street (£192k).

Officers have been approached by local residents from Sliabh Dubh estate, Springfield Road, regarding the provision of a playground. Officers advised the residents that while the Council supports the need for play facilities for local children it was not in a position to meet the capital costs. Following further meetings between Officers from Belfast Regeneration Office, Fold Housing Association and the Council, the Department for Social Development agreed to meet the cost, estimated to be in the region of £160k.

The land is currently owned by Fold Housing Association which has agreed to transfer the land at nil cost to the Council.

**Key Issues**

The Committee is asked to note the following points:

1. Residents from the Eversleigh Street area have no access to junior play facilities;
2. Sliabh Dubh is a new housing estate in West Belfast, in excess of 200 units have been constructed with no play facilities. Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS 8) requires that play provision be provided where there are 100 new housing units, unfortunately this scheme pre-dates PPS 8;
3. The Department for Social Development has agreed to meet the capital cost of both projects (total cost is in the region of (£350k) on the basis that the Council agree to accept the transfer of land and undertake the management and maintenance responsibilities associated with playground provision;
4. Officers from Parks and Cemeteries are currently reviewing playground provision and will bring forward, to a future meeting, a draft framework to guide decisions as to playground provision. However, in both cases, Officers are satisfied that there is local need due to the lack of play areas in the vicinity of local housing.

**Resource Implications**

The Members have stressed that one of their key requirements in the new governance arrangements is to take control of the Council resources at a strategic level. In order for this to be done, it is considered that this section of the new reporting structure needs to be much more robust.

Financial

The Committee is asked to note that the capital cost of provision will be met by the Department for Social Development.

The schemes will have revenue implications. The acquisition will represent additional, stand alone, facilities, which will need to be inspected and cleaned. It is estimated that the cost of this will be in the region of £1,500 per annum per site. This does not take account of damage to the facility through vandalism or use.

Members are asked to note that the typical life expectancy of play equipment and the surface would be approximately 10 - 12 years, again depending on levels of use and abuse over time. Members should be aware that these items will require replacement in the future.

Human Resources

This project will require Officer time from the Landscape Planning and Development and the Estates Management Unit.

Asset and Other Implications

These projects will add to the Council land holding and will, upon completion, increase the number of playgrounds to 76.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

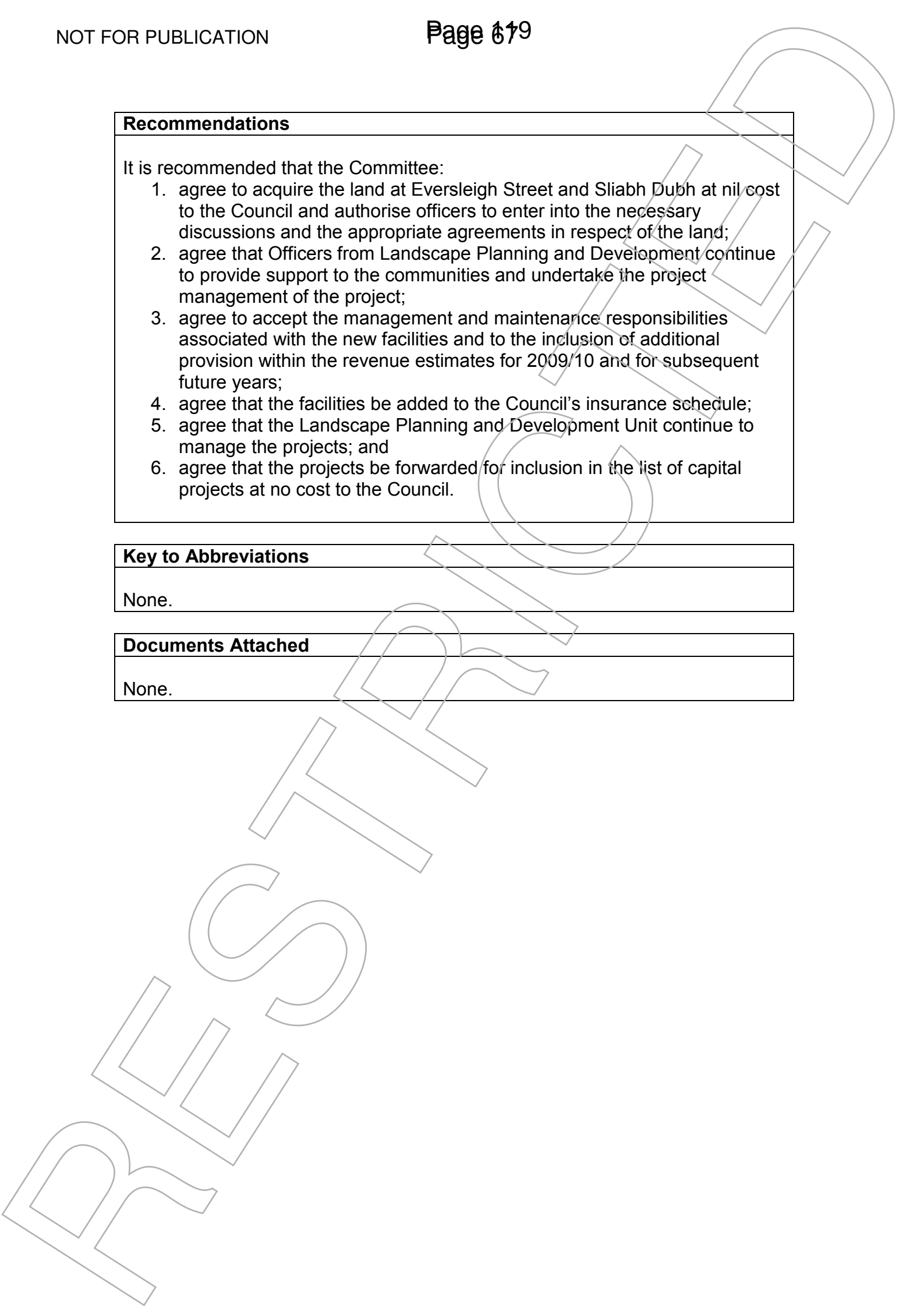
1. agree to acquire the land at Eversleigh Street and Sliabh Dubh at nil cost to the Council and authorise officers to enter into the necessary discussions and the appropriate agreements in respect of the land;
2. agree that Officers from Landscape Planning and Development continue to provide support to the communities and undertake the project management of the project;
3. agree to accept the management and maintenance responsibilities associated with the new facilities and to the inclusion of additional provision within the revenue estimates for 2009/10 and for subsequent future years;
4. agree that the facilities be added to the Council's insurance schedule;
5. agree that the Landscape Planning and Development Unit continue to manage the projects; and
6. agree that the projects be forwarded for inclusion in the list of capital projects at no cost to the Council.

**Key to Abbreviations**

None.

**Documents Attached**

None.



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### Belfast City Council

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| <b>Report to:</b>         | Parks and Leisure Committee                               |
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Private Patrick Carlin VC</b>                          |
| <b>Date:</b>              | Thursday, 11th December, 2014                             |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Mr Barry Flynn, Democratic Services Officer (6312)        |

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| <b>1</b> | <b>Relevant Background Information</b>   |
| 1.1      | The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 16th October, it had granted permission to the Ulster Covenant and Historical Society (UHC) to place a marker close to the site of the grave of Private Patrick Carlin V.C., which is situated in the Friar's Bush Cemetery on the Stranmillis Road. Private Carlin served as a Private in the Somerset Light Infantry during the Indian Mutiny of 1858 and was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery.  |
| 1.2      | At the meeting of the Council on 3rd November, during discussion on the minute in respect of Private Carlin, a Member pointed out that Private Carlin had originally been interred within the burial ground of the former Belfast Union Infirmary (i.e. the Workhouse) at Abingdon Street, Donegall Road. That burial ground had been uncovered during the work associated with the building of the City Hospital in the 1970s. Consequently, the bodies of those interred within Abingdon Street were reinterred within unmarked graves at the Belfast City Cemetery and at Friar's Bush. Accordingly, the Council agreed that a letter be forwarded to the UHC requesting that consideration be given to erecting a Blue Plaque at the site of the former Cemetery at Abingdon Street to mark the original burial place of Private Carlin. |

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| <b>2</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>   |
| 2.1      | After the meeting of the Council, the UHC was contacted to consider the Council's request. The Secretary indicated that the Circle would, in principle, be sympathetic to the request and that it would be brought to the attention of its board for its consideration. It is hoped that further information in this regard will be available for Members at Thursday's meeting.  |
| 2.2      | The Committee should bear in mind that, should the UHC agree to support the erection of the plaque at the site in Abingdon Street, there is a prolonged process which must be followed before it can be erected. This would entail the UHC undertaking detailed research to confirm an individual's credentials and achievements. Thereafter, permission would need to be granted from the owners of any building upon which the plaque might be affixed. |

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| 2.3 | Given the centenary of World War I, the UHC is currently considering a range of local individuals associated with that period for the erection of blue plaques. Therefore, the Committee should note that the timescale for the erection of a plaque to Partick Carlin is unknown. Thus, periodic updates will be submitted for consideration. |
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| <b>3</b> | <b>Resource Implications</b> |
|          | None at this stage.          |

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| <b>4</b> | <b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b> |
|          | None  |

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| <b>5</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
|          | The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report. |

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| <b>6</b> | <b>Decision Tracking</b>                                |
|          | Democratic Services to follow-up on any decision taken. |